

Highfield After School Club

14th Southampton (Highfield) Scout Group, Adjacent 51 Brookevale Road,
Southampton, SO17 1QS



Inspection date

20 July 2015

Previous inspection date

9 January 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children flourish in the club, show high levels of confidence and have strong relationships with their friends and staff. They show a clear sense of belonging and staff value all that they do.
- The staff use the outdoor environment exceptionally well for children's play in that it gives them freedom of expression and plenty of exercise. They thoroughly enjoy experimenting with natural resources.
- Staff place good emphasis on safeguarding children. They fully understand their child protection responsibilities. Staff keep children safe from harm through undertaking training and by working with other staff involved with the children.
- The partnerships with parents are strong, with good information sharing and a pro-active parent committee who underpin the leadership of the setting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the snack-time routine is noisy and opportunities for children to talk together and with staff are lost.
- Some indoor play resources are uninspiring owing to, for example, a lack of care in presentation, muddled storage or broken parts. This weakness reduces children's choices and enjoyment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- give children further opportunities to talk to staff and other children by reducing noise levels during the snack-time routine
- develop indoor play choices for children through setting out play resources.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's play activities and the snack-time routine.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nominated person about leadership and management, evaluation methods, and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The staff at the club meet children's play needs well. They provide a good range of activities for children to enjoy in their leisure time. Staff follow the children's lead because the play ideas come from them. This means children enjoy what they do. Children have fun with their siblings and friends, and play harmoniously together. They are fully occupied and well-motivated to participate. They use their imaginations and make their own play decisions particularly when playing outside in the wooded copse, where they create such things as mud tattoos. They develop physical skills through playing football and climbing trees. Children are happy, busy and thoroughly involved in different play opportunities. The staff stay close by and support children well. They talk to them and provide them with opportunities to build on their knowledge and skills. Children enjoy books and have some conversations.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff welcome children into a club that offers plenty of stimulating resources. Children come in with self-assurance and talk happily with their key person, who knows each child well. Children behave well because they understand the club's rules and the staff's expectations of them. The staff have good strategies to encourage children to listen to their instructions, including at the noisy snack time. Children's safety is maintained by clear supervision from the staff on the walk to the club from school. Children walk in pairs in an orderly way and wear high-visibility jackets. Children experience plenty of physical challenge outside and learn to manage their own risks under the watchful eyes of staff. Staff meet children's nutritional needs well and promote good hygiene routines.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Leaders employ a well-qualified staff team and implement robust policies and procedures to ensure staff meet requirements. There is a strong emphasis on child protection; all staff know what to do if concerned about a child. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure staff are suitable for their roles. Staff undertake effective risk assessments regularly to ensure the premises remain suitably safe and secure for children's use. Leaders place strong emphasis on staff performance management to help drive improvement of the club's provision. There is regular staff supervision to evaluate and discuss their training and coaching needs. Staff undertake training to develop their play skills further, which has had a positive affect on children's experiences. For example, staff have introduced new physical play activities as a result. Staff have good partnerships with the local school staff which help meet children's needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422768
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	822952
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Highfield After School Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 January 2012
Telephone number	02380 486271

Highfield After School Club registered in its new premises in 2011. It operates from a Scout group building in the Portswood area of Southampton. The club is open each weekday from 3.15pm to 6pm during school term times. There are 10 staff employed; of whom, all but one hold recognised qualifications.

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