

The Gap

Hargate Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 1PH



Inspection date

26 October 2015

Previous inspection date

23 January 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Some senior leaders have not attended safeguarding training for almost four years.
- Leaders have introduced new risk assessments and planning processes to ensure children's safety on outings. However, these processes are very new and have yet to be fully embedded in practice.

It has the following strengths

- Leaders now work closely with staff and children to consider associated risks on outings. Together they have completely, and effectively, overhauled the planning of trips and visits to places of local interest to minimise risks to children and adults.
- The children relish their time at The Gap. They arrive at the setting full of enthusiasm and excitement. They form firm friendships with the adults and other children attending the setting.
- Skilled and enthusiastic staff involve the children in the planning of a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities. As a result, children are happy and settled in the setting.
- Security arrangements are effective. All visitors are vetted by staff and leaders. The ongoing suitability of staff is a major priority for leaders. They have effective systems in place to ensure staff remain suitable to work with the children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ ensure that all senior leaders attend regular training to update their safeguarding knowledge and practice.	31/01/2016

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

- make sure that the new arrangements to keep children safe when on outings are embedded in practice.

Inspection activities

- This inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process as a result of a serious incident in August 2015, when staff left a child at the park while on an outing.
- The inspector reviewed the improvements leaders have made since the last inspection and their plans for future improvement.
- The inspector observed children during a range of play and learning activities in the designated play areas, including outdoors
- The inspector held meetings with the leaders and staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all adults working at the setting and the professional qualifications and training of staff and leaders.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and those of children spoken to on the day.
- The inspector explored the setting's risk assessments and how effectively the provider has identified and taken steps to minimise any potential risks.

Inspector

Deborah Jane Udakis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Senior leaders have not attended regular training events to ensure that they maintain their safeguarding credentials and knowledge. Despite this, lessons have been learned, as a result of the leader's investigations into the recent incident when a child was left while on an outing. Leaders and staff have worked effectively to identify the setting's key strengths and areas for improvement. Together, they have taken positive steps to overcome weaknesses. Consequently, the current arrangements to safeguard children are effective. Children talk confidently and knowledgeably about how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside and on outings. Staff know how to keep children safe at the setting and they know when and how to report their concerns to professional safeguarding agencies. They have established trusting and cooperative relationships with parents and local schools. Information sharing is effective because the leaders maintain children's welfare at the heart of all they do. Staff receive regular and effective supervision and support. All staff have individual learning and development objectives which lead to improvements in their professional practise.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The wide range of good quality activities ensure that children remain engaged throughout their time at the setting. A parent said, 'I really like the fact that the children are well stimulated in the club. The activities are exciting and ignite the children's interests'. Outdoors, the children enjoy developing their tackling and ball skills as they play energetic and competitive football games. There is a dedicated digging area and a separate planting area where the children have harvested potatoes and are about to harvest the onions they planted. Indoors, music and dance is a very popular activity. The children sing and dance to the music, coordinating their movements to produce dance sequences. One child explained, 'it is really good coming to the club because there are always lots of arts and craft activities and I can be with my friends'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children behave well. They support each other and they know the rules of good behaviour. They are increasingly able to control their emotions and behaviour. They are respectful of each other and they practise good manners and politeness. The younger children look up to the older children and they learn the rules and expectations of good behaviour from them. The recent changes to the arrangements to keep children safe on outings have yet to be fully embedded. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence of their effectiveness on children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317663
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	1027223
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	150
Name of provider	Christian Youth & Community Service (Bridging the Gap) Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 January 2015
Telephone number	0121 5254442

The Gap is run by a committee and was registered in 2006. The setting is open each weekday from 7.30am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm during school term-times, and 8am to 6pm during school holidays. There are close links with the local schools. The setting employs nine members of staff, including the registered person. Of these, seven are appropriately qualified to level 3, and two have level two qualifications. One of the staff has a BA (Hons) Degree in dance and theatre. There are currently 150 children on roll.

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