

Strathmore Fun Club

Strathmore Infant School, Old Hale Way, HITCHIN, Hertfordshire, SG5 1XR



Inspection date	20 October 2015
Previous inspection date	17 March 2010

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children behave well and staff are consistent in their approach to managing their behaviour. Relationships between children of different ages who attend the club are strong. Older children are very willing to support the younger ones, which has a positive impact on their emotional well-being.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development are warmly promoted by caring staff. Children's achievements are celebrated with praise and star charts and these are displayed for parents to view. Very good settling-in procedures mean that staff and parents work together to help children settle and feel confident.
- Children's physical development is well promoted. Staff provide opportunities for them to have fresh air and exercise on a daily basis. Children confidently use the large playground and grassed areas where they enjoy climbing, playing football or riding on scooters.
- Staff communicate effectively with parents and other settings, such as the schools that children attend. This ensures that children's individual needs, including disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language, are met. In addition to this, staff ensure that all messages are shared appropriately between school and home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The system for staff's professional development does not focus sharply enough on raising practice to the highest level.
- Staff do not always give children enough opportunities to make independent choices about what they play with.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance staff's professional development so that it increases the potential to deliver the highest-quality provision
- extend opportunities for children to make further choices about their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the safeguarding procedures. She also viewed evidence of the suitability and specific training certificates of staff working at the club.
- The inspector observed a range of activities and jointly evaluated these with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector talked to the manager and discussed how she reviews and evaluates the setting.

Inspector

Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding children are good. The after-school club manager and staff are vigilant. They implement robust procedures to protect children and provide a secure environment. For example, staff have daily responsibilities, including supervising outside play and managing arrivals and departures to promote children's safety. They are aware of how to protect the children in their care. Designated staff take the lead role for ensuring that safeguarding concerns are dealt with effectively. All staff attend regular safeguarding training and are aware of the procedures to follow if a concern is raised. The manager implements robust recruitment and induction procedures to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. She holds regular staff meetings and promotes daily opportunities for staff to share general information. Partnerships with parents are good. Parents speak positively about the established staff team and they are warmly welcomed into the club. Staff update parents with important information through regular newsletters and displays. The manager has taken action to meet the previous recommendations and regularly evaluates and observes staff practice to make improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team know children well. Staff talk to parents and children during their first visits, to find out as much as they can about each child before they start. Staff use this information to plan a range of interesting and enjoyable activities and experiences that complements the learning that takes place in school. They adapt activities to ensure that children of all ages can take part. For example, children are currently taking part in a Halloween poster competition where they are encouraged to create their own ghostly pictures. The activity is simplified for younger children as they use pens, crayons and stick-on resources. Older children are challenged to include their own creative designs and there are several winning categories to ensure that all children have an equal chance of winning. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are aware of how to support younger children's development and include the areas of learning in their planning. Children select role-play resources, from those that are available to them, and their imaginations are promoted. For example, they dress up in a range of costumes and create their own constructions from different sized bricks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children build strong friendships with children that attend from different schools in the area. They anticipate their friends' arrival at the start of the session and offer them a hug and a smile once they arrive. Children are kind to each other and they share and take turns. Older children explain to younger children how they have to put their name on a list to have a turn on the electronic consoles. All children skilfully use a timer to make sure they all have the same amount of time on these well-used resources. Children develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. They use the toilets independently and wash their hands before meals and after outside play. The staff provide a very good range of hot and cold meal options that children choose from on a daily basis. Most staff have relevant food-hygiene certificates and children's dietary needs and specific requirements are consistently met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	146767
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863998
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	70
Name of provider	Hitchin and Strathmore Fun Club Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2010
Telephone number	01462 438499

Strathmore Fun Club was registered in 1998 and is one of two clubs privately run by a management committee. The setting employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager who holds a level 6 qualification. The setting opens from Monday to Friday term time only, from 3pm until 6.30pm. The setting provides care for disabled children with and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

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