

Swallowfield After School Club



Swallowfield Lower School, Weathercock Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes,
MK17 8SL

Inspection date

7 December 2015

Previous inspection date

14 November 2011

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

- The well-qualified staff understand how children develop. This helps them to provide a range of highly stimulating experiences that meets children's individual needs. Staff build on children's eagerness to learn through the activities and help them to practise their developing skills.
- Leadership is strong. The managers and staff team are enthusiastic and have diligently addressed recommendations from the previous inspection to maintain good quality practice.
- Children are active and improve their physical development while at the club. They choose to work together to search for insects outdoors, recording their findings on charts. Children understand the need to be safe when it is dark; they readily wear high-visibility tabards and fetch torches to use to help their play.
- Staff provide support to parents and children during settling-in periods. Children quickly form trusting relationships with their key persons and other staff. They arrive at the club eager to play together and demonstrate a sense of security.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- During some craft activities, staff tend to make suggestions and lead children rather than responding more to children's own spontaneous creative ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children to make more choices within tasks, making decisions about which materials to use and how to use them as they develop their spontaneous creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the owner, managers and all other staff during the inspection. She looked at a broad selection of relevant documentation, such as the record of self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff employed.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The managers and staff make sure that child protection is given a high priority in all areas of practice. Staff regularly discuss safeguarding to ensure that they know the signs and symptoms that might cause concern about children's welfare. They know the procedures to follow to report such concerns. The well-qualified managers and staff are focused on continuous improvement. They complete frequent training programmes, such as courses that focus on raising quality in settings and developing and using sign language. These sessions help them to continue supporting all children to make the best possible progress in their development. Self-evaluation is effective; staff develop action plans to help them to work towards further improvement. Recruitment and induction procedures are robust. New staff are monitored closely during their probation period to help to ensure good quality practice in the setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff talk with children and take time to listen to their responses. This helps to support children's speech and language skills and encourages their further contribution. Staff encourage children to play cooperatively. Children work together. They make dens so they can use torches inside. Children write competently and make signs to display indicating how many children may be in the tent at one time. They show that they have considered the space available and their developing awareness of safety. Children enthusiastically use a broad range of resources to make cards, books and pictures together. Staff make a detailed daily plan for activities based on children's interests. They share information verbally each day with parents, helping to support their involvement in children's learning. Staff work closely with the host school that children attend. They share observations that they make, extending children's interests and building on projects started in school. This helps to complement their learning and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy taking responsibility at the club. Each day they volunteer to act as one of several monitors who are appointed to carry out specific roles. For example, children call the register, act as bell monitors and serve the snacks to the whole group. These roles help to develop children's sense of responsibility as well as independence. Staff are good role models. Children behave well, creating a relaxed and vibrant atmosphere for all. They enjoy working towards a group objective and demonstrate a secure understanding of expectations for behaviour. For example, they enthusiastically use a coin reward jar to acknowledge good behaviour. When children are awarded coins they place them in the jar and discuss the joint present that the club will receive when they reach their target. Children show that they understand the effect that their behaviour and actions may have on others. Each month they sit together and choose a value for the month to consider, such as cooperation or friendship. They democratically choose the value and then talk about how they can follow it.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422911
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	852367
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 9
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Joanne Bernadette Tierney
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2011
Telephone number	075155 20846

Swallowfield After School Club was registered in 2011. The provision employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The provision opens each Monday to Friday in term time only. Sessions are from 3.30pm to 6pm.

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