

Inspection date	21 December 2015
Previous inspection date	21 July 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

- Children have fun and learn new skills in the out-of-school club. They take part in a wide range of activities that supports and extends their imagination, creativity and physical skills.
- Leadership and management are good. The provider and managers continually evaluate the activities on offer and devise well-targeted plans to make continuous improvements.
- The partnerships with the teaching staff at the host school are well established. There are effective arrangements for sharing information about children's individual needs. Children receive a wide range of experiences that complements their learning in the school classroom.
- There is an effective key-person system. The qualified staff skilfully and sensitively help children form secure bonds and attachments. During the holiday club, children from different schools mix and make friends.
- Children develop a good understanding of leading a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy physical play and have access to a well-resourced outdoor area.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Management do not always monitor staff performance closely enough to identify slight inconsistencies in practice, in order to rapidly improve the good quality provision to the highest levels.
- Staff do not always gather enough information from parents about new children's interests and enthusiasms to enhance their enjoyment of activities from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring of staff performance and help all staff to effectively raise the quality of their practice even higher
- obtain more information about children's interests and enthusiasms when they join the club.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on the children's enjoyment of activities.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.
- The inspector held discussions with the registered provider, two managers, staff and children.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the club.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The robust recruitment and supervision procedures ensure that all staff have good knowledge and understanding of how to protect children in their care. Daily checks of the premises are carried out and the staff are vigilant about security. The majority of staff hold relevant childcare qualifications so know how to promote children's care and enjoyment. There are staff with food hygiene and first-aid qualifications who can prepare food safely and deal with accidents and minor injuries. Children's development is monitored well and key persons ensure any gaps in children's learning are quickly identified and shared with their school teachers. Staff also gain information about children who speak English as an additional language and disabled children and those with special educational needs. This helps to ensure they get the support they need. Evaluation includes the views of parents, children and the staff team. Parents make very positive comments about the club. They say they appreciate the flexibility of the care and the welcoming provision the staff offer.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are keen and eager to try new things. Staff promote children's communication and social skills well. They speak with children during activities and listen to their ideas. For example, children confidently design and make intricate Christmas decorations. Staff may offer an initial suggestion but children use their own ideas to create artwork special to them. Children also enjoy cooking activities. They confidently use tools to roll and cut pastry. They use the clock to work out the time and tell staff when the food needs to be taken out of the oven. Children confidently count and develop their mathematical skills as they take part in board games or recreate patterns when making bracelets. Overall, partnerships with parents are good. Staff provide newsletters, daily communication and feedback to ensure parents are kept well informed about the planned activities and their children's progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate confidence and have a good sense of belonging in the club. Staff have successfully created a very caring and secure environment where all children are warmly welcomed and feel well supported. The many displays of children's artwork effectively show that staff value their efforts and children are proud of their achievements. Children spontaneously sing as they play and staff join in with their Christmas songs. Children's behaviour is very good. Children are able to resolve issues and take turns with little support from staff. They show care and respect for each other. Staff give children lots of praise and offer clear explanations about the benefits of responsible and helpful behaviour. Children develop an effective understanding of how to take risks and stay safe, both indoors and outside. They discuss potential dangers when cooking or when using outdoor play equipment. Children have good opportunities to be independent as they prepare a selection of healthy snacks and pour their own drinks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY409208
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	850979
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 - 12
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	153
Name of provider	Chestnut Grove Kindergarten Ltd
Date of previous inspection	21 July 2011
Telephone number	01255 429 029

Kidzone was registered in 2010 and is one of three settings run by Chestnut Grove Kindergarten Ltd. The out-of-school club employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am and 3pm until 6pm, during school term times. The holiday club operates from 8am until 6pm. The club supports children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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