

The Ark Out-of-School Club



Pontesbury C of E Primary School, Bogey Lane, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0TJ

Inspection date	19 January 2016
Previous inspection date	25 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The registered person, managers and all staff have the highest expectations for all children. Their high level of qualifications and ongoing training help them to have a superior understanding about how to further enhance children's achievements.
- Key persons make sure they know children's interests and what they can already do. They effectively organise activities to provide high levels of challenge that will enthuse children.
- Children develop strong emotional attachments to their key persons. All staff are excellent role models for children. This promotes excellent behaviour among children and helps them to settle quickly into the provision.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. There is an extensive range of information displayed to keep them fully informed about the service provided. Staff engage well with parents and support them exceptionally well to encourage children's ongoing learning at home.
- There are excellent relationships between the provision and children's schools. Comprehensive two-way information is shared to ensure high levels of consistency. Key persons talk with the children daily about their school experience. This provides the opportunity for children to talk about any worries or concerns with the staff caring for them.
- The registered provider ensures that all staff, parents and children are fully included in the comprehensive self-evaluation process. This and the inclusion of comments from the local schools, help to identify targets that greatly benefit the children attending.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make even better use of the school library resources, to maintain the excellent outcomes children are already achieving.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's achievements.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers and the registered provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the provision's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of the staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management and staff have an excellent understanding of the safeguarding policy and procedures which are regularly discussed during team meetings. They recognise the possible signs of neglect and abuse, and know what to do and who to contact should they have any concerns about a child in their care. There are robust systems in place for checking all possible hazards to children on and off the premises. This includes checking all areas before the children arrive at the provision every day. Children's continued readiness for school is a key focus of the provision. Staff practice is regularly monitored by managers. Furthermore, managers monitor the planning of children's activities to ensure their interests are fully included. Staff are also provided with regular opportunities to discuss confidential issues and identify their own training needs. The registered person has identified that there is the potential to further enhance children's achievements, by making even better use of the on-site school library. She recognises that this will further extend the already first-rate facilities provided for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children show high levels of independence as they choose what they want to do and where they want to play. They move freely between the indoor and outdoor areas while staff follow their lead, offering support and encouraging new skills. Older children show regard for younger children, as they help them set out road tracks with blocks and demonstrate how to programme the computerised robot. All children are well practiced in taking turns with resources, listening to one another and sharing resources fairly. This further enhances the younger children's excellent sense of self-esteem and belonging. Children enjoy investigating and solving problems for themselves when making three-dimensional models using recycled resources, and they use their imagination as they talk to staff about their creations. Outdoors, children play football and other sports. They take manageable risks in their play, as they use a range of excellent equipment to extend their physical skills. Children also like to rest on the garden bench and hold conversations about their school day. Staff engage exceptionally well with the children, they hold discussions, use demonstration and encourage children through a 'can do' ethos. This very effectively builds children's confidence and independence skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are provided with an excellent range of snack foods. Staff spend time talking with children about the importance of eating well and being physically active for life. Furthermore, children enjoy fresh air and play outdoors after school every day. This helps children to develop their physical skills well over time. Children build excellent friendships with other children of all ages. They demonstrate a high regard for others around them and the staff that care for them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364735
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	849668
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 - 11
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	85
Name of provider	Ark Childcare (UK) Limited
Date of previous inspection	25 March 2010
Telephone number	01743 791 540

The Ark Out-of-School Club was registered in 2007. It is one of three provisions managed by Ark Childcare (UK) Limited. The provision employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds Early Years Teacher Status and three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The provision opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.45am until 8.50am and 3.15pm until 5.55pm.

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