

Inspection date	31 March 2016
Previous inspection date	23 July 2012

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 learn to play cooperatively and develop increasing levels of self-confidence. They are able to choose from a variety of highly enjoyable activities. There are plenty of opportunities for them to be physically active. Staff skilfully praise, reassure and encourage children as they need it throughout the day.
- The manager aspires to lead his team to give children exceptional experiences to enhance their enjoyment and sense of achievement. Many of the staff working directly with children are highly qualified.
- There are clear organisational systems in place that ensure that statutory requirements are met. Robust recruitment procedures ensure that suitably skilled, qualified and experienced staff are working with children.
- The views of staff, parents and children are regularly sought and used to make alterations to the activities on offer to ensure that they reflect the interests of children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While staff recognise the need for younger children to rest after the vigorous activities during the day, they do not always consider this fully when setting the pace of the programme.
- Staff practice is not yet monitored and evaluated perceptively enough to raise the quality of the provision even higher.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of the day, giving children more time and opportunity to move from one activity to another at their own pace
- build on staff performance through more incisive evaluation that identifies specific areas for further development, in order to raise the standards of practice to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the holiday club manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the holiday club's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the holiday club.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Kate Hipperson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are well trained and qualified. They know the appropriate procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care. There are clear policies and procedures in place, ensuring that the safety of children is maintained. Staff consistently implement the identified procedures to manage the large groups of children as they move around the extensive buildings and grounds. The manager regularly evaluates many aspects of provision to identify areas for improvement. For example, hot lunchtime catering has been introduced as a result of requests from parents through their feedback.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children participate in a busy schedule incorporating various activities including swimming, arts and crafts, cookery and time in the adventure playground. There are also regular visits from outside children's entertainers and educators, such as circus skills groups and a local zoological education service. Children are able to choose from a range of purposefully selected activities which give them good opportunities to build their confidence and self-esteem. They play alongside their peers and older children, contributing their own ideas. For example, as they cook in small groups, children are able to share their experiences from home together. This contributes to children developing bonds and attachments with staff and with each other. Staff are attentive, listening to and responding to children appropriately, helping them to build their social skills. Children learn to be patient and take turns as they line up to get their snacks at break time, lunchtime and during play-based activities. They learn to be responsible and their independence is promoted as they take responsibility for clearing away afterwards.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's health and fitness are effectively promoted. They are given opportunities to be very active and exercise regularly throughout the programme of activities. Staff who work in the host school during term time form part of the setting's staff team. They are purposefully deployed to work alongside the young children, so that children have familiar people caring for them during their holiday provision. This is effective in ensuring continuity of care for these children, all of whom attend the school. Staff are vigilant in supporting children emotionally throughout their day. They have clear and consistent expectations of children's behaviour and children know what is expected of them. The high quality of relationships between staff and children is evident as they demonstrate good manners in their interaction. They are respectful and kind towards each other at all times. Where children have additional health requirements, the manager and staff work closely with parents to ensure that identified needs are consistently met by all members of the staff team.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260711
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	1041824
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 - 14
Total number of places	180
Number of children on roll	75
Name of provider	Town Close House Educational Trust Limited
Date of previous inspection	23 July 2012
Telephone number	01603 620180

Activate is a holiday activity club which opened in 1999. It operates from the pre-preparatory building of Town Close House Preparatory School in Norwich, Norfolk. The holiday club opens each weekday during three weeks of the school summer holidays and for a week at Easter, from 8.30am until 5.30pm. It employs 13 staff, seven of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager.

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