

The Squirrels Out of School Clubs

Ham Dingle Primary School, Old Ham Lane, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands, DY9 0UN

Inspection date	1 July 2016
Previous inspection date	7 July 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 provider leads by example and empowers staff to provide good quality learning and care. They review practice consistently to ensure children's needs are met well at all times.
- Children are well behaved and have regard for the needs of others. They listen well and take turns to contribute during large-group discussions.
- Partnerships are very strong. Staff work closely with parents and teachers in the host school to share information about children's starting points. They have regular discussions to ensure children get the support they need.
- Parents are extremely pleased with the good levels of communication. They express very strong admiration for the provider and staff. Parents appreciate the friendly, flexible and supportive attitude that underpins the care of the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide sufficient opportunities for children to build on their experiences that help them learn about communities and other cultures.
- The provider has not yet ensured the outside play space is developed for children to extend their learning outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the planned activities to include more opportunities to strengthen the children's understanding of different people and the wider world
- provide more opportunities for children to extend their learning through outdoor play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of learning and play during activities indoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager/ provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke with staff, parents and children during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Adelaide Griffith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider/manager involves all staff in making changes to improve the provision. Staff, parents and children contribute to the self-evaluation. This ensures changes are implemented through a shared understanding. The provider has met the actions from the last inspection effectively and addressed recommendations competently. Recruitment procedures are robust and records are now easily accessible. All staff have opportunities to discuss their performance and training opportunities. The provider observes staff's practice regularly and provides valuable feedback. This raises the quality of teaching so that children's learning is promoted well. Since the last inspection, the provider has made several changes to the environment. Staff have daily discussions with parents about what children do in the club and provide regular written summaries of their achievements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are well informed about safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to promote the welfare of all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have many opportunities to learn through play. There is a good balance between adult-led activities and child-led play. Staff incorporate children's ideas into the planned activities and they are free to lead aspects of their own play. Staff often join in with children's play and praise them for their achievements. Children enjoy role play activities during which they develop skills in measuring and ordering. They use information technology to build on their numeracy skills. Children learn to think of answers and solve problems as they follow clues during games. Staff provide good levels of challenge, for example children extend their early literacy skills through play with a selection of puzzles. Staff mirror the planned activities provided in the school. This ensures a systematic approach is in place to provide continuity as children move between settings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children of all ages mix well and make friendships in the club. Staff nurture younger children and ensure they have opportunities to develop relationships away from siblings. This ensures all children are confident, develop a sense of who they are and are assertive enough to make choices. Children understand that treats, such as plain biscuits, are additional to the balanced snacks of sandwiches, fresh fruit and vegetables. They learn to keep safe by adhering to boundaries beyond which they are not allowed to go when they are outside. Children's independence skills are well developed. They take responsibility for tasks, such as putting away their coats and bags on arrival. They know what is expected of them as they walk across the grounds from school, and they form orderly queues at snack time. The children's opinions are respected in the club. Staff explain reasons for decisions and acknowledge children's responses or comments. They enjoy their time in the club where staff create a relaxed, caring atmosphere.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY427057
Local authority	Dudley
Inspection number	1041480
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	30
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Helen Jones
Registered person unique reference number	RP902945
Date of previous inspection	7 July 2014
Telephone number	01384818965

The Squirrels Out of School Clubs was registered in 2011. The club employs five members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3, 5 or 6. The club opens during term time only from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 3.30pm to 5.45pm. The club has close links with the host school.

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