

Mead Open Farm Activity Day Camps



Mead Open Farm, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 9JH

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| Inspection date | 11 August 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | Not applicable |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Outstanding | 1 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Not applicable | |
| 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 childcare director and manager are highly qualified and motivate the staff team extremely well. Their extensive knowledge of the theories behind children's development helps them to support every aspect of children's well-being at the club.
- The manager continually reviews the activities on offer and the quality of staff interactions with children. Staff strive for excellence and are committed to providing the highest possible quality of care for children.
- Staff engage with children with enthusiasm and show a love for their work. They have an abundance of energy, and obvious genuine affection for the children they care for. Children delight in their busy day and are eager to experience all opportunities on offer for them.
- Children enjoy very close relationships with staff. They are respectful of staff and each other, and show an in-depth awareness of the rules that help to keep them safe and secure.
- Activities are very well planned to help children to get to know each other and develop as a group. Children demonstrate their consideration for others, and are caring and considerate of each other's feelings. Staff are highly successful in building children's confidence and acknowledge and praise their achievements.
- Staff help children to learn exceptionally well about being fit and healthy. Children use the play barn, where they test out their physical skills and increase in confidence in their abilities. Children develop a sense of how to manage some risks for themselves, for example, when using the large slides.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to use technology to further enhance children's abilities to share their experiences and views at the club.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities for children around the farm and in the base room and had discussions with staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and childcare director. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector took account of feedback left by parents.
- Children shared their views with the inspector and talked about the things they enjoy doing at the club.

Inspector

Hayley Marshall-Gowen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The staff team works together very efficiently under the strong direction of the manager and the superb guidance of the childcare director. Organisation is excellent and staff move between the different environments to support children as they make the most of the unique setting. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know how to identify any concerns about children's welfare and follow procedures to report any issues to the relevant person. The organisation has a thorough and robust approach to safeguarding children. There are stringent checks carried out on all staff to confirm their suitability to work with children. Extensive ongoing training helps staff to remain highly effective in meeting children's needs. Staff provide flexible care for parents and encourage their involvement in the club. There are innovative approaches to communicating with them from the very beginning. Staff share information about what activities children have enjoyed and welcome their feedback about the quality of the setting. This contributes to staff's ability to make ongoing improvements that have led to the excellent standard of care that children enjoy. Staff are developing the use of technology to help children to share their views even more effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are highly independent and able to make multiple choices throughout their time at the club. This gives them the ability to follow what interests them and keeps them fully entertained and busy. Children take delight in bottle-feeding lambs and counting new-born piglets. They eagerly embrace the many available activities that help them to think and play together. Staff are highly supportive and make sure that all children have opportunities to take part and join in. They provide art and craft activities that help children to express their ideas, be creative and to use their imagination. Children make scarecrows and use complex problem-solving skills. They measure clothes to fit their scarecrow and stuff it with hay to make it look less floppy. Children who prefer to play outdoors have ample opportunities to make use of the impressive facilities on offer. Staff make sure that young children have quieter times, where they can rest and unwind. Children are very outgoing and articulate. They talk with enthusiasm about what they enjoy doing at the club and desire to attend every day.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children sit together when they eat. These are social occasions where children share their ideas and talk about things that are important to them together. Staff are creative in supporting children to be tolerant, patient and understanding of others. This helps to contribute to an environment where everyone feels valued and safe. Older children are happy to help younger ones and have a sense of responsibility as the most mature members at the club. Rules are clear and children know what behaviour staff expect from them. They behave extremely well. Staff encourage meticulous hygiene practices. Children are taught about the reasons for handwashing, as this is especially important when they have been in contact with the farm animals. The key-person arrangements are highly effective in helping young children to settle very quickly and gain exceptional skills for the future.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY490033 |
| Local authority | Central Bedfordshire |
| Inspection number | 1017323 |
| 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 | 32 |
| Number of children on roll | 74 |
| Name of registered person | Kids Play Ltd |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP900863 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |
| Telephone number | 07816 217024 |

Mead Open Farm Activity Day Camps was registered in 2015 and provides childcare from a first-floor room within the play centre at the farm. The club employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The club opens from Monday to Friday during Bedfordshire local authority school holidays. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm. There is an option of early or late club dependent on need.

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