

Play Aloud Simon Balle

Simon Balle School, Mangrove Road, Hertford, SG13 8AJ



Inspection date	25 August 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Managers have created a child-centred environment that is welcoming, calm and extremely inclusive. Children flourish and enjoy their time at the club.
- Children and staff build strong relationships through their time at the club. Staff gather detailed information about each child, in order to meet their individual needs.
- Children's health and well-being are encouraged. They enjoy a wide variety of foods, playing an active role in preparing their own snacks.
- Children enjoy choosing their own activities. They keenly explore the many interesting areas within the club. Staff are deployed well and help children to settle into and engage in activities they enjoy.
- Children are happy and secure. Their confidence and independence are particularly strong. Staff interact enthusiastically and sensitively with children, consistently modelling good practice. Staff successfully encourage children's good behaviour and support them to manage their own feelings and emotions.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The systems used to monitor the quality of the club and to actively seek the views of all parents are not yet fully effective.
- The monitoring of staff practice is not being used as effectively as possible to drive forward the quality of the provision for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the methods used to monitor the quality of the club and further embed the contributions from all parents more effectively within the practice
- strengthen the monitoring of staff practice, in order to drive forward the quality of the provision for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and experiences, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and procedures, risk assessments, and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the club.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Beverley Devlin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know the action to take should they have any child protection concerns. They have the necessary documentation in place and use it to record details, such as children's attendance and any accidents that happen. Robust recruitment arrangements are used to ensure the suitability of staff working with children. Staff attend a good range of training to keep their knowledge up to date. They review and evaluate the success of activities for children. However, the arrangements for monitoring staff practice are not so well established. The qualified team works well together, offering children an environment where they can play freely and safely. Staff have formed good relationships with the host school. Information is exchanged between staff, teachers, and parents regarding children's care and learning needs, to complement their time at school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children demonstrate that they are happy. Staff are very attentive to their different needs. Children check in with staff regularly, with warm reassurance available for them if needed. Rules and boundaries help children learn how to keep safe. Children are encouraged to get involved and try new things. They demonstrate a good sense of achievement as staff celebrate their efforts and congratulate their ideas. Children understand the good hygiene routines and remember to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They are helpful and responsible, assisting with collecting resources and tidying throughout the day. They take turns on the rota for helping with special jobs, such as preparing fruit for the snack and helping to prepare the cutlery, plates and beakers. They spend a considerable amount of time being physically active, both indoors using the school hall, and outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy their time at the club. Staff use their skills and knowledge well to thoughtfully plan and prepare activities that engage and motivate children. This helps children develop new skills and builds on what they already know and can do. Children particularly enjoy craft activities that allow them to investigate and experiment with different media and materials. They benefit from opportunities to refine their physical skills as they use tools, such as scissors, to create various collages. Children play with small-world models and initiate their own imaginative stories and role-play scenarios. Staff sensitively join in with children's play, extending their interests through discussions and recalling previous experiences. Children have a quiet area to go to should they wish, which includes an interesting range of books for them to enjoy. Children show their good hand control as they thread colourful cord and create their own personalised tapestry. They practise drawing and writing, and take part in a variety of board games. Children use their skills to play competitive games. They build shelters from sponge blocks, taking turns to remove lower blocks without making their shelter fall down. Children excitedly use fishing rods and magnets to find letters and spell out words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493298
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1025919
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 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Katie Thomasina Rowe
Registered person unique reference number	RP515349
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07535784783

Play Aloud Simon Balle was registered in 2015. The club employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one at level 2. The setting opens from 7.30am to 8.50am from 3.15pm to 6.30pm, during term time. It also operates during school holidays from 7.30am to 6.30pm, except for Christmas.

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