

Dawn until Dusk Ltd at Balliol Lower



Balliol Lower School, Balliol Road, Kempston, BEDFORD, MK42 7ER

Inspection date	18 October 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

- Staff have a highly sensitive understanding of the needs of children attending out of school care. They create a relaxed, welcoming environment, where children can socialise and feel at home. They balance this extremely successfully with a multitude of exciting play opportunities that complement children's formal learning.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their interactions with highly motivated staff. They eagerly explore and confidently express their ideas and thoughts in this positive, nurturing setting. This successfully aids children's communication skills and supports them in maintaining a wonderful enthusiasm for learning.
- Staff build excellent partnerships with parents so that they fully understand children's needs. This enables staff to offer children highly pertinent support and to tailor activities and resources so that these accurately reflect children's interests.
- Staff show children that they enjoy their company. They involve children in daily routines, planning activities and making decisions. Children develop an exceptionally practical awareness of the needs of others and learn to negotiate. These skills support them well in understanding how to interact and play a positive part in society.
- Innovative activities, discussions and displays support children in understanding how to keep themselves healthy. For example, children competently explain how much sugar there is in different types of drinks and why it is important to drink plenty of water.
- The manager and staff make excellent use of any new knowledge from training. They now have a greater understanding of children's behaviour and implement highly successful, individualised strategies to help children understand this and learn to moderate their own behaviour.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the outdoor provision even further to offer children who prefer to play outside even more opportunities that enrich their enjoyment and extend their interests.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors. She talked with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the setting manager and the two company directors. She reviewed an activity with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's information records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working with children. She viewed self-evaluation information and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Kelly Eyre

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The company directors and manager use their qualifications well and set high standards for the setting. Their aspirational leadership and highly effective support inspire staff and ensure that all share the same enthusiasm. Exceptionally robust recruitment procedures and excellent supervision mean that staff are supported in developing their practice. Highly comprehensive self-evaluation enables staff to precisely identify areas to improve even further. They have recognised the potential to offer children even further resources in the outdoor area. Excellent partnerships with the school mean that setting staff are always aware of what children have been working on and offer them creative opportunities to discuss this and build on their learning. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff frequently refresh their training in this area. The introduction of a practical staff newsletter means that staff are always up to date with local procedures and fully understand how to report any concerns about children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know children exceptionally well. They frequently make resources that enhance children's enjoyment and offer them opportunities to extend their learning. This particularly helps children who have special educational needs and they gain practical skills that support their formal learning in school. Staff plan all activities exceptionally well so that children enthusiastically engage in exciting play opportunities that enable them to build on their skills and knowledge while having fun. For example, they learn about nature as they gather flowers and grasses to make crowns. They move on to learn to handle tools safely as they use bow saws and hand drills to make bug houses and wooden medallions. Staff pay meticulous attention to evaluating activities, using this information to fully understand children's interests and to offer them further associated activities. After noting children's enthusiasm for making illustrations depicting what they want to do when they are adults, staff extend this with numerous creative opportunities. For example, children enjoy visiting pets and talk about becoming vets, and play with role play equipment relating to being a dentist.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff's excellent understanding of each child's needs means that children quickly settle and build warm relationships with their key person and other staff. The lively and secure environment nurtures children's positive interaction and their emotional stability, thus supporting them in feeling secure and confident in school. Staff's attention to detail means that children learn further skills that support their development. For example, they add pictures to their own record books, eagerly reviewing these and talking with staff about what they have learned. Exceptionally thoughtful daily procedures support children in developing their social skills. Children of all ages love taking their turn at helping to serve the food at teatime. Children gain an excellent awareness of safety. They competently explain different types of road crossings and signals as they participate in associated role play. Children participate in numerous activities that promote their physical development. They capably organise skipping games, where they work out the timing of their jumping and help younger children to join in.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479819
Local authority	Bedford Borough
Inspection number	984500
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	3 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	100
Name of registered person	Dawn Until Dusk Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902292
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07557981481

Dawn until Dusk Ltd at Balliol Lower was registered in 2014. The setting employs two members of childcare staff, one of whom holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The setting opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 7.30am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 6pm. The setting provides care for children who have special educational needs.

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