

Mighty Oak Trees, Dunmow St Mary's

DUNMOW ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL, High Stile, Dunmow, CM6 1EB



Inspection date	19 October 2016
Previous inspection date	12 July 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Staff have made significant improvements to the security of the classroom. They are vigilant about monitoring the doors and ensuring that children only leave with known adults.
- Children enjoy the activities available. They have plenty of opportunities to choose what they would like to do. Staff encourage children to follow their own interests and have fun playing with their friends.
- Staff have built strong relationships with children. Their interaction with them is consistently good. Children show they feel safe and that they are valued by the staff who care for them.
- Staff teach children how to behave appropriately. They are calm and consistent in the messages that they give about what is and is not acceptable behaviour. Staff also use friendly reminders to help the children comply with expectations.
- Partnerships with parents are successful and help children to feel secure. Parents report positive opinions about the staff at the club. They are happy with the care of the children and the different types of activities on offer.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not explored all possible ways to share information between school teachers, the club and parents to enhance continuity of care.
- Children do not consistently have the opportunity for daily outdoor play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the sharing of information between class teachers, the club and parents, to enable even more communication to support children further
- seek further opportunities for children to spend time outdoors on a daily basis.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and children's free play.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the club's self-evaluation, policies and the evidence of the suitability of the staff.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The team of staff at the out-of-school club works well together. They make good use of competent volunteers, to help ensure the safety and well-being of all children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a very clear understanding of their role and responsibility to act swiftly in the event of any child protection concerns. Senior staff make sure visitors and volunteers are equally clear about safeguarding practice at the club. Recruitment and induction procedures help to ensure staff understand their respective duties. The arrangements for training support staff to develop their skills and to gain appropriate Playwork or early years childcare qualifications. The manager has implemented regular supervision meetings, backed up by observations of practice. This has helped all staff to reflect on what they do. It has had a positive impact on making improvements to the organisation of some activities. The systems in place for passing messages between the school and parents work well. Parents have opportunities to give feedback about the club, through the questionnaires sent out by the provider.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are eager to get started on the activities when they first arrive at the club. They are enthusiastic about attending the club. Children of all ages have a go at the wool activities. They enjoy knitting, weaving and making pom-poms. Older children support others, helping them to get started and practise new skills. Children show their creativity as they plan and make decisions about which colour wool to use. Children enjoy support from staff and volunteers. They seek help when they need it to succeed. Children are thrilled to have a turn at using the pool table. They work out how to line up the cue with the balls. They are delighted when they manage to pocket a ball. Children are all very keen to go into the large hall for some energetic games. They concentrate well and show very careful attention to detail when building with wooden blocks and drawing. The activities available are purposeful and constructive, helping children to have fun and relax after a busy day in school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show they are happy and settled in the club. They enjoy plenty of independence as they help themselves to a good range of substantial snacks and drinks. Children follow appropriate hygiene routines and understand the need to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children are very keen on outdoor activities. The provider has implemented security measures since the last inspection that limit children's opportunities to play outdoors. Children benefit from some sessions in the hall where they can be energetic. On some days, children can enjoy up to 30 minutes of outdoor time when all of the external school gates are locked. However, other people use the school premises on some evenings, which prevents this from happening. Relationships between children of all ages are good. Children are well mannered, polite and helpful.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY472759
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1060358
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	60
Name of registered person	Mighty Oak Trees Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901327
Date of previous inspection	12 July 2016
Telephone number	07800593118

Mighty Oak Trees, Dunmow St Mary's was registered in 2013. The club opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 7.45am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 6pm. The club employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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