

The Gap

Hargate Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 1PH



Inspection date	28 October 2016
Previous inspection date	26 October 2015

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 management team has worked hard to bring about a marked improvement in the overall quality of the club. Partnerships with parents, schools and the local authority advisor are good. These help staff to identify accurate targets for driving forward ongoing improvements that promote the vital skills children need to support them in school.
- Staff cheerfully welcome parents and children when they arrive in the morning. They engage in children's play, following their lead and interests at all times. Children form positive and trusting relationships with staff and other children.
- Staff place a strong focus on listening to children and respecting their views. Children's suggestions and ideas are included in the planning. Staff provide children with a wide range of exciting activities and experiences.
- Children experience physical challenge and take manageable risks in their play through regular visits to the adventure playground within the local country park.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not always keep children engaged well enough during the changeover of routines.
- Staff do not always seek enough information from parents when children first start so that they can build on their current interests.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reflect on the day-to-day organisation of the club so that children are effectively engaged during the changeover of routines
- gather more information from parents about their child when they first start, in order to promote a more shared approach in identifying and supporting children's interests from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's practice during activities indoors.
- The inspector looked at the records about children and the planning documentation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of a children's activity with the centre manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the centre manager. She checked the evidence of the suitability of the staff, the self-evaluation process and the improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, staff and children spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Linda Yates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Most staff have attended training on the principles of risk assessment. They are able to effectively identify risks and take measures to reduce them in the indoor and outdoor environment and on outings. The management team and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities for protecting children from abuse or neglect. There are robust systems in place for the safe recruitment of staff. The management team ensures staff's ongoing suitability is monitored and there is an effective induction process. Furthermore, staff receive regular individual support meetings where they can seek advice and discuss their future training requirements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are highly effective at supporting all children in their play and learning. Children choose to follow their own interests, for example, playing with the small-world train track. They are engrossed in their play as they design and build a column to support the train track where it connects to the sloping bridge. Children investigate the concept of force as they try to connect the magnet coupled trains. During this activity, staff use commentary to extend children's understanding and use questions that challenge them to think. They develop their strong 'can do' attitude because staff use meaningful praise and encourage their exploration and investigations. Children investigate and explore dough. The physical skills of dexterity and coordination needed for writing are refined as children roll and shape their creations. Children enjoy the shared experience of playing sports games together on the games console. They take turns and share tips with one another. Children make their own choices and establish their own ideas as they learn new concepts and solve problems in their play throughout the day.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's good health very well. They provide children with meals and snacks that are nutritious and well balanced. Children enjoy daily access to the outside play area, where they enjoy playing football and basketball. They take manageable risks in their play as they test their physical skills on the trampoline outside. Staff and children show real pleasure as they dance together and follow the correct moves to party music. This fosters children's social interaction and encourages them to learn movement patterns that teach coordination. Staff use a wide range of effective approaches to encourage children's positive behaviour. Children enjoy playing with their peers, but they also benefit from contact with older and younger children. Older children show empathy and help younger children to put on their painting aprons and look for their coats. Children are confident and happy and talk freely and enthusiastically to staff and visitors about what they are doing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317663
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	1058280
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 - 12
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Christian Youth & Community Service (Bridging the Gap) Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522877
Date of previous inspection	26 October 2015
Telephone number	0121 5254442

The Gap was registered in 2006 and is managed by a non-profit voluntary organisation. The club employs five members of childcare staff. The centre manager holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6. Two other staff hold qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2. The club opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am and from 3pm until 6pm during term time and from 8am until 6pm during school holidays.

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