

City Kids Playcentre

30 Union Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB2 1HE



Inspection date

21 November 2016

Previous inspection date

28 January 2016

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 provider has successfully addressed the actions raised at the last inspection. Ofsted have been provided with the required information to carry out full suitability checks on all committee members. The provider is aware of changes that need to be notified to Ofsted and has put in place procedures to ensure the requirements continue to be met.
- Staff have established effective partnerships with staff from the on-site school and children's teachers. Children benefit from use of the stimulating outdoor spaces. They are aware that their key person talks to their teacher to support their development.
- The key-person system is managed by staff who effectively support children's well-being. They work closely with parents to help children settle in, and take account of information they provide, such as children's likes and dislikes. For example, staff make children's favourite food available to encourage them to join in with breakfast.
- Staff plan a wide range of experiences to complement children's chosen activities and help them to develop new skills. Children become animated as they talk about the activities they take part in at the club and are excited about learning embroidery.
- Parents are very happy with the care provided and say that their children are often reluctant to go home. They feel their views are welcomed and recognise positive changes that have been made to the club.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The play leader is not making the best possible use of the supervision meetings to monitor and evaluate staff's practice. There is not enough focus on raising the overall quality of the provision to the highest level.
- At times, children experience minor interruptions during group activities and are not always able to share their ideas or listen carefully to the contributions of others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the focus on monitoring and evaluating staff's practice in supervision meetings to help raise the overall quality of the provision to the highest level
- provide children with more opportunities to share their ideas and listen to the contributions of others, minimising the risk of interruption to their concentration.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of interactions during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's enjoyment. She spoke to children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the play leader and held discussions with the provider and all members of staff.
- The inspector held ongoing discussions with the play leader. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's self-evaluation, a report from the annual general meeting, policies and files for staff and children.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability of all persons working on the premises and other documentation in relation to the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

Inspector

Rachel Pepper

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are eager to develop their good practice and have refreshed their knowledge of child protection issues. They have received further support from the play leader to ensure this includes the most recent government guidance. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Risk assessments are completed each day to ensure all play equipment is in good working order and that the outdoor areas remain safe and secure for children to use. The management team places a high emphasis on gaining the views of all those associated with the club through staff meetings, parent surveys, emails and daily discussion. Children help make decisions about what new resources to purchase and are encouraged to write their ideas on a white board. Following parents' feedback, staff have made provision for a quiet area for reading and homework, and purchased resources more tailored to the abilities of older children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and provide them with support and encouragement. They read children their favourite stories and use clear pronunciation to introduce new words. This helps all children to extend their developing vocabulary and communication skills. Children gain an understanding of diversity. Staff answer their inquisitive questions about different cultures and celebrations. They respond to children's requests to learn words in French. During free play, children engage in role play as they dress up with friends. They concentrate for long periods as they play with the small-world castle, knights and horses. Children work cooperatively with their friends to build arrangements using small construction pieces and are enthusiastic to win competitive board games. Children are eager to take part in planned activities. They explore the texture of foam and cornflour, working out the best consistency to mould a snowman. Staff make further materials available to fuel children's creativity and regularly praise them for their achievements.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle in quickly and those who have older siblings attending become less reliant on them after just a few sessions. They develop caring relationships with staff and are confident to ask them for help as needed. Effective staff deployment enables children to freely choose where they wish to play while still being well supervised. For example, some children choose to play more active games in the main hall, while others use the designated quiet room to complete their homework. Children develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe. They use tongs to serve hot toast and explain that they must wear a helmet when rollerblading outside. Children enjoy taking on the responsibility for small tasks and are clear on the expectations of staff. They know to hang up their coats on arrival and tidy away toys when asked. Staff provide children with a variety of fruit and savoury snacks to choose from each day. In addition, children take part in regular physical exercise to help promote their healthy lifestyle. They ride scooters, pedal bicycles and enjoy making up dance routines with friends, practising these to popular music.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221713
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1058038
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	45
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	City Kids Playcentre Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905294
Date of previous inspection	28 January 2016
Telephone number	07804 325 925

City Kids Playcentre opened in 1995 and is located in a community hall next to St Alban's Catholic Primary School. The club employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold relevant qualifications as level 3 and above. The club is open five days a week during school term times from 7.30am to 9am and from 3.15pm to 6pm.

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