

Firbobs @ Mersey Park Primary School

Mersey Park Primary School, 40 Elm Road, Higher Tranmere, BIRKENHEAD, Merseyside, CH42 0PH



Inspection date	19 January 2017
Previous inspection date	14 January 2013

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

- Children enjoy the relaxed, homely feel the club achieves. They cuddle with their teddies on the sofa, as they watch cartoons on television or run around outside playing games with their friends. Children say they have lots of fun at the club.
- The manager has established effective partnerships with school staff. They meet regularly to share information about children's well-being and development. The club plans activities to complement those offered at school.
- Children are well behaved. They listen to staff and follow any instructions they are given. Children can explain the simple rules and boundaries the staff have put in place to create a safe and calm environment.
- Parents and children contribute their views to an evaluation of the club. The manager has implemented innovative ways for younger children to share their views. She uses these to make an accurate assessment overall, of the club's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Parents comment very positively about the club. They say staff share information well and the service is flexible.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Methods of monitoring staff performance are not highly focused on driving practice to an outstanding level.
- New electronic systems for the effective management of children's records when they attend different after school and holiday-club venues, are not fully embedded.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop methods of performance management further to determine what managers and staff need to do to raise the quality of the club to an outstanding level
- embed new company systems, so that managers and staff fully understand how children's records are shared between after school and holiday-club venues.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector talked to the provider, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club manager and the company's quality manager and discussed their self-evaluation. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Val Aspinall

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They have effective procedures in place to prioritise children's well-being. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager ensures the club is a safe environment for children through thorough risk assessment. Staff understand how to identify the potential signs of abuse. They know who to contact should they have concerns for a child's safety or well-being. Staff are well qualified and use what they know about children's development to provide a variety of activities and resources. Regular staff meetings help the experienced team to review their practice. Training courses are sourced to support staff to extend their knowledge further. However, senior managers do not frequently monitor staff practice to thoroughly assess the quality of staff's skills. While practice is good, staff are not encouraged to identify how they can raise the standard of this to an outstanding level.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have lots of opportunities to practise the skills they are developing at school. Staff are very good at supporting children to persist with challenging tasks. For example, staff encourage children to layer and connect strips of card to make a lantern. Children carefully add strips, checking they are the right way around. Staff ask questions to help children clarify their ideas. Children show great pleasure when they complete the task. Staff provide plenty of resources and plan activities to help children learn about the cultures and beliefs of people from around the world. Staff observe children to identify what they like to do and then plan activities to develop their interests further. Children also contribute to the planning process. Children enjoy writing in lots of different ways. For example, they try hard to write a safety notice on the easel. They explain that it says do not go in the kitchen unless the teacher says so. Space is organised well. Staff play games where children need to listen in a smaller, quieter room. Other children cooperate to make large train tracks on the floor.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy the company of staff, who are warm and responsive to their needs. Staff know children well and engage in interesting conversations with them. Children are confident and independent. They can put on their own coats and pour their own drinks. Staff encourage them to help prepare the snack. Children use safe knives to cut up their own fruit under the supervision of staff. Children learn about healthy food choices and why eating a well-balanced breakfast is important. The calm and friendly atmosphere helps children relax after their school day. Children can choose to play indoors or outside. Staff lead games where children learn to cooperate and take turns. Children have great fun as they run around outside being physically active. The choice of resources offered means that children of all ages are happily engaged in play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY450927
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	1066142
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	24
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Carrie Ann Stacey
Registered person unique reference number	RP514040
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2013
Telephone number	07807046617

Firbobs @ Mersey Park Primary School was registered in 2012. The club employs three members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday in term time. Sessions are from 7.45am until 9am and 3.15pm until 5.45pm.

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