

The Exwick Ark Out Of School Club



Redhills School, Landhayes Road, Exeter, EX4 2BY

Inspection date	31 January 2017
Previous inspection date	10 October 2012

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The management team evaluates the quality of the setting well. They involve staff, parents and children successfully to help identify areas to improve. They monitor the impact of these well, focusing on children's engagement and enjoyment in activities.
- Children are happy and confident, with excellent self-esteem. They show a very strong sense of ownership of their club. For example, they set their own boundaries and codes of conduct and do not hesitate to remind each other of these when necessary. Children show through their very good behaviour that they feel extremely emotionally secure.
- Staff have very good relationships with parents. They keep them well informed about their children's daily achievements. Parents provide good information to staff about their children's interests when they first attend the setting. This helps staff plan interesting activities that engage children from the beginning.
- Staff work very closely with the school that children attend. They have good discussions with teachers, so they know what children learn in class to support them further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children enjoy being creative but have very limited opportunities to value their own and others' artwork.
- During term times, staff do not provide enough outdoor play opportunities for children to enjoy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children to value their own and others' creativity more
- provide a wider range of outdoor play opportunities for children to enjoy.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children engaged in activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector observed staff collecting children from their classrooms, and their discussions with teachers.
- The inspector had discussions with the providers, manager, staff, parents and children.
- The inspector sampled required documents, including safeguarding procedures, and talked to staff about their understanding of how to implement these.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The providers support the manager and staff well and encourage them to develop their knowledge. They monitor the impact of new skills on children's play experiences. For example, training to support children with specific learning needs has encouraged staff to develop sensory play. All children now thoroughly enjoy activities, such as using the dark tent to explore different light effects. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a very good understanding of local safeguarding procedures and what to do to protect children from harm. Security is stringent. Staff are very vigilant, especially when other activities take place on the school premises, to ensure children's safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan good activities with children, which consistently reflect the children's current interests. They help children very well to build on what they learn at school during play activities. For example, staff used children's favourite board games to encourage them to practise their mathematical skills. Children added and subtracted the counters and quickly calculated who had the most left. Staff focus well on developing children's social skills. For example, snack time is a relaxed and sociable event where staff encourage children to talk about their day. Staff encouraged children to help prepare food and lay the table, and most were keen volunteers, demonstrating their good safety awareness as they peeled and chopped fruit and made sandwiches and toast. Staff recognise that some children are tired after a busy day in school and provide quiet and cosy spaces where children can relax and read quietly.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff support children who have special educational needs exceptionally well. Extremely good daily communication between staff, parents and teachers helps the children to thrive in the setting. Excellent partnerships with other professionals keep staff very well informed about plans to help these children make good progress. Staff organise focused play experiences that support the children extremely effectively to achieve. All children are highly respectful of each other and are consistently kind and caring. Older children are very mindful of younger ones and make sure they include them in their games. For instance, while playing football, they took care to pass the ball to the younger children, and gave them 'high-fives' each time they scored a goal, further boosting the children's confidence. Children are very aware that some people use other means of communication, such as sign language. They are very proud of their ability to sign everyday words and phrases, and staff encourage this extremely effectively, helping them to practise their skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440938
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1059110
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	40
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	The Exwick Ark Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903483
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2012
Telephone number	07516018985

The Exwick Ark Out of School Club is a privately owned provision and registered in 2012. It operates from Redhills School in the city of Exeter, Devon. The setting is open for 50 weeks of the year and operates each weekday from 3pm until 6pm during term time and from 8am until 6pm during school holidays. One of the owners holds early years professional status and the other is a qualified teacher. They employ six staff to work with children. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, one has an early years qualification at level 4, one has a qualification at level 3, and one is qualified to level 2. Some staff, including the manager, also have relevant playwork qualifications.

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