

Dawn until Dusk Ltd at St James



St James Lower School, Main Road, Bedford, MK40 4BD

Inspection date	18 October 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Parents and children are highly complimentary about the staff and the exciting and interesting activities the club offers them. Children say they feel safe and enjoy the wide range of delicious teas and have lots of fun. There is an extensive range of information that is given to parents to keep them extremely well informed about the club.
- Partnership with the school is highly successful and enables staff to meet children's needs very effectively. The staff team listens actively to other professionals, children and parents. They value what they say and act on new ideas, so that the provision is continually improving and developing.
- The staff are exceptionally well supported by the management team who has an outstanding knowledge of how to provide exciting activities and a dynamic environment. This means exemplary support is given to children in all aspects of their play.
- Staff share their extensive knowledge and experience with other settings and groups. They are fully committed to helping children understand the needs of others beyond their own communities. For example, they encourage children to support local charities and take part in fundraising for others who are less fortunate than themselves.
- Children settle very quickly in the club. The key person makes sure they know their child's needs and interests, so that children's well-being is assured and they feel a sense of belonging in the club.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance staff's professional development to maintain the excellent standards of practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact of these on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff suitability checks and children's folders.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated person, children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the school head teacher and parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of children's learning with the deputy manager.

Inspector

Helen Harper

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The club place children's safety and welfare at the heart of all they do. Staff have an excellent knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They clearly know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about the welfare of a child in their care. Robust recruitment procedures are in place to ensure the suitability of those working with children. Highly effective monitoring systems are in place to ensure the ongoing suitability of all staff. The management team is ambitious and driven to pursue excellence in all they do and support staff very effectively to deliver this. They recognise the importance of continuing staff's professional development to maintain the high quality of their practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan and offer a wide variety of amazing experiences for the children to enjoy. For example, they set up a role-play area to support the knowledge children gained, following a visit to the club of a new-born baby. Staff talk to the children about the fontanelle on a baby's head and fully explain how the bones close as we get older. Staff complement the learning that takes place at school to the activities they offer in the club exceptionally well. For example, children's discussions about Diwali at school led staff to encourage children to create Diva lamps from clay. Staff explain that by squeezing the clay it gets warmer and as it gets warmer it gets softer. Staff support children to write their names on things they have made and they listen with interest to children who delight in sharing spelling rhymes they have learnt at school. Children create models, using wheels and rods. They share and talk together about what they are making and how their models work.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff know children very well and parents talk about how genuinely caring and consistent the staff are. Staff spend time talking with the children about their day. This is highly effective in supporting children to feel an important part of the club. Children are extremely independent. They competently pour their own drinks and serve themselves tea and snacks. Communication with the school is outstanding. For example, staff from the school speak with club staff about accidents that happen during the day, so they can convey this information directly to parents. Other professionals say the club is a seamless experience for the families. They say, 'The club is not just an add-on to the school day, but a continuation of children's learning and experiences'. Children risk assess their environment and proudly wear the 'buddy badge' for looking after someone who needs extra support. This means children are valued and they are highly confident. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They work very cooperatively together. Children are very supportive of each other and eagerly make the most of opportunities to help one another during activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493821
Local authority	Bedford Borough
Inspection number	1026632
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	105
Number of children on roll	7
Name of registered person	Dawn Until Dusk Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902292
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07826100013

Dawn until Dusk Limited at St James registered in 2015. The club employs five members of childcare staff. Of these; four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The club opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am, and from 3pm until 6pm.

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