

Jousters At Oakwood

Oakwood Primary School, Oakwood Drive, ST. ALBANS, Hertfordshire, AL4 0XA



Inspection date	9 November 2017
Previous inspection date	7 March 2014

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

- Staff work in close partnership with schools that children attend. They share relevant information with them to build further on children's prior learning and provide a continuity of care.
- The key-person system helps support new children to settle quickly. Children build close bonds with staff. They quickly become confident and eagerly share their views and opinions.
- Staff have built good partnerships with parents. They provide them with a range of information, such as details about upcoming events and pictures of activities their children have enjoyed. Parents comment that staff are very approachable and their children are very happy at the club.
- The management team regularly gathers the views of parents and children. Their ideas are incorporated into the plans for future development and improvements at the club.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The supervisor does not always make the best possible use of induction meetings to monitor and evaluate new staff's practice and focus on raising the overall quality to the highest standard.
- Staff do not always provide a range of opportunities and activities for energetic play in response to the needs of those children who prefer to be outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance procedures for staff induction that monitor and evaluate new staff's practice and raise the overall quality to the highest standard
- provide further opportunities and activities to consistently support children who prefer an outdoor learning experience, responding more effectively to their need for energetic play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the club supervisor.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Michelle Baldock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding about the signs and symptoms to be aware of. They know the procedures to follow and who to contact with any concerns they may have about a child. Staff receive effective supervisory meetings. Targets for improvement are set and together they identify training that supports staff to enhance their skills. Staff effectively use opportunities for professional development and training to extend their knowledge and skills. They provide feedback to other staff about information they have learnt from any relevant training. Children are taught to identify risks for themselves. For example, they learn to pick up toys that fall onto the floor.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children receive good support from the dedicated staff. They clearly explain about the planned activities to the children. This helps support children to be focused and has a positive impact on their achievements. Children enjoy creating their own pictures using a range of materials. They are encouraged to write their own names on pictures which helps develop their writing skills. Staff challenge children in their play. They ask children questions, such as 'what is Remembrance Day about?' Children are given time to think and respond for themselves. They enjoy building a home and a garage from construction bricks. Staff promote children's language and communication. For example, children are given the opportunity to show and tell about something special each week. Staff talk to children about what they are doing.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave very well. Staff support children's understanding about being kind and sharing through clear and consistent explanations. They spend time talking with children about their day. This gives children opportunities to share information about their daily experiences at school and discuss any concerns they may have or achievements they have made. Children develop their independence. For example, children prepare their own snacks and willingly help to tidy away toys when they have finished playing with them. Good hygiene practices are promoted by staff. They remind children to wash their hands before mealtimes and after creative activities and outdoor play. Children take part in activities for different festivals and events. This helps children develop their understanding and respect for each other's views and opinions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY367033
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1102097
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 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	92
Name of registered person	Jousters Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902604
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2014
Telephone number	07930617696

Jousters at Oakwood registered in 2008. The club employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The club opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.50am until 8.50am and from 3.15pm until 6pm.

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