

# Acorn at Oakley Vale

Oakley Vale Primary School, Cheltenham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN18 8RH



## Inspection date

27 November 2017

Previous inspection date

31 March 2014

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>	<b>3</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not monitor closely enough to identify where individual staff require support and coaching to raise their practice and understanding to a consistently good level.
- Staff do not always consider how activities can be reshaped to improve them. As a result, children sometimes lose interest in the activities on offer.
- Staff do not always promptly reshape activities to engage children effectively.

### It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and settled at club. They enjoy their play. Children have good relationships with staff, some of whom they know from school.
- Parents comment that they are very happy with the care provided. They say that children enjoy their time at club and that staff keep them safe and look after them.
- Children enjoy plenty of time outdoors. They benefit from fresh air and exercise after a long day at school.
- Staff act as good role models. They teach children to share resources and to be kind to each other. Children are building strong friendships within the club.
- Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and foods while they are at the club.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

### To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	<b>Due Date</b>
■ improve arrangements to identify where individual staff require support and coaching to improve their practice.	31/12/2017

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

- enhance the two-way flow of information with school staff so that experiences provided complement individual children's learning
- help staff to improve their understanding of how activities can be reshaped to engage children effectively.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff.

**Inspector**  
Josie Mapes

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a suitable understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse, and they know who to contact if they are concerned about a child's welfare. The manager supports staff generally well, through ongoing staff meetings and appraisals. However, she does not fully target some individual staff practice or knowledge to ensure that they increase their expertise in all areas of their professional development. For example, although all staff have completed recent training on the 'Prevent' duty, some staff knowledge is not good enough. The manager ensures that the premises are safe and secure for children. She ensures that staff are deployed effectively throughout the setting. The manager checks staff suitability to ensure all staff working with the children are suitable to do so. The manager uses self-evaluation to improve practice. For example, she has recently introduced new resources to promote children's imaginative play and learning.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement**

Staff provide activities which generally interest children. However, at times staff do not always reshape activities to maintain children's interest and focus for longer periods of time. Staff get regular updates from school teachers about topics which are being covered in class. However, they do not always obtain information about individual children's learning at school so that they can enhance the activities on offer at the club. Even so, children are warmly welcomed into a large relaxed classroom, where they can independently choose where they want to play. Children have recently shown an interest in puppets. Staff have helped them to build a puppet theatre so that they can put on shows for their friends. Staff provide children with opportunities to go outdoors and play games, run freely and create their own play. Children are able to use equipment, such as balls, hoops and beanbags, to promote their physical skills.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement**

The weakness in some staff's knowledge and skills has a negative impact on the overall effectiveness of how children's welfare is promoted. Nonetheless, children are happy and settled at the club. Staff know the children very well and chat happily to them about their day when they arrive in the club. Children follow good hygiene practices with minimal support and manage their personal needs well. Children learn about keeping themselves safe and know they must inform a member of staff if they wish to leave the room to visit the toilet and make them aware of their return. Snack time is a positive social experience for children. They sit together with their friends and exchange news about their day at school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY462332
<b>Local authority</b>	Northamptonshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1088147
<b>Type of provision</b>	Out of school provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	4 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	16
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	7
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Acorn Early Years Foundation
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP901362
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	31 March 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	07714133327

Acorn at Oakley Vale re-registered in 2013. It operates from a classroom on school premises and is managed by Acorn Childcare 2. The club operates during term time, Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 8.45am and from 3.30pm to 6pm.

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