

The Alpha Club

Breakfast/Afterschool

Holy Trinity Church, Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD



Inspection date

20 February 2018

Previous inspection date

9 September 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

- The manager has a good understanding of her role. Staff use the policies, procedures and risk assessments efficiently to support the health and safety of the children attending. Staff regularly review these policies to ensure their knowledge is up to date.
- Children show a real sense of ownership of the club. They make their own choices and have ample opportunities to lead their own play and learning. Children understand the rules and boundaries and behave impeccably.
- Partnership with parents is positive. Staff actively work with parents to make sure that they can meet the individual needs of all children.
- The provider and staff reflect on their practice well. They seek the views of children and parents to help evaluate the provision. They demonstrate a desire to drive forward continuous improvement.
- The management team is vigilant and deploys staff effectively to ensure they maintain children's safety at all times.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make the best use of the information gained from teachers about children's interests and progress, to complement these further at the club.
- The management team is not sharing the skills and knowledge of some staff across the team to drive further improvement more swiftly.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of the information gained about children's interests and progress to further complement their play and enhance their learning
- make better use of the identified strengths in staff knowledge, skills and practice to drive improvement of the provision even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities and assessed the impact this has on children.
- The inspector spoke to children about their time in the club.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's policies and procedures, risk assessments, self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tracy Hopkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff can recognise the signs and symptoms of possible child abuse. They know how to identify any children who may be at risk of harm from extreme views or behaviour. In addition, they know how to record and report any concerns they may have regarding a child's welfare. Staff support each other well and are led by a positive and well-qualified manager. A robust vetting and employment process, along with effective induction, helps to ensure staff are suitable and have the skills needed to work with children. Each member of staff receives regular supervision that provides good opportunities to discuss their performance and training needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff welcome children with a friendly smile as they meet them at school and talk about what they have been doing during their school day. Children bound into the club, excited to play and talk to their friends and staff. Children use their imaginations as they sit together, designing and creating pictures, building with construction materials and playing board games. Older children happily play alongside younger children and include them in their games and discussions. Children relax in the cosy, quiet area with easily accessible books. Children confidently interact with each other. They have good opportunities to practise and develop their confidence in communication and language skills. Staff engage children in conversations that help them to think and plan while sustaining their interest. Children have many opportunities to learn about the differences and similarities between themselves and others. For example, they take part in planned activities relating to different cultures and festivals. Children's time at the club provides them with good opportunities to further develop the skills and attributes needed for their continued learning in school and for future life.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children receive tailored care that meets their individual needs. They enjoy healthy and nutritious hot meals and snacks that fully meet their dietary needs. The atmosphere in the club is relaxed and welcoming. Children are happy and settled and they receive appropriate emotional support to prepare them for their next stage in learning. The settling-in sessions are very much tailored to each individual child. There is an effective key-person system for children. In addition, the younger children have an older child to support and mentor them in the club. This means that children feel secure in their care and are developing strong and positive relationships with the staff and their peers. Staff have very positive relationships with parents, which helps to promote continuity in children's care. Children walk from school to the club with staff and are encouraged to think about how to cross the road safely. In addition, they are able to risk assess as they come across a roadwork barrier blocking some of the route. As a result, they develop their understanding of keeping themselves safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343572
Local authority	Greenwich
Inspection number	1070839
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	40
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	Alpha Chains Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901203
Date of previous inspection	9 September 2014
Telephone number	07939 528 678

The Alpha Club Breakfast/Afterschool registered in 2007 and children from St Mary's School and Eltham Church of England School currently attend. The club provides care Monday to Friday during term time and occasional holiday care, although generally holiday care is held at other Alpha club settings. The breakfast club session starts at 7.30am and finishes at 8.45am. The after-school club session operates from 3.15pm to 6.30pm. A total of five staff work with the children in the club, some on a part-time basis, and the manager and deputy hold a level 3 qualification. The club provides care for children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities.

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