

The Larks Out of School Club



St Barbara's Hall, Gore Road, Lark Hill, Salisbury, SP4 8NN

Inspection date 28 March 2018
Previous inspection date 16 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider, who is also the manager, fails to keep children safe at all times. She does not take appropriate action to prevent unauthorised people from entering the premises or to prevent children from leaving.
- Self-evaluation is not effective. Although the manager completes risk assessments and identifies potential hazards, she does not take action to reduce risks to children, for example, to improve the door security, which significantly compromises their safety and welfare.
- Partnerships with parents are not fully effective. Staff do not always know whom to collect from school, which means they cannot focus on meeting the children's needs, as they try to liaise with parents.
- Although staff gather some information relating to children's general well-being, they do not establish a regular two-way flow of communication with other providers, to help them complement targets and activities for children as well as they can.

It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy their time at the club. Staff organise a good variety of activities that appeal to children of all ages.
- Staff form close bonds with children, which helps them to settle after a busy day at school or nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ take reasonable steps to ensure children do not leave the premises unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises 	13/04/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improve risk assessments to identify and address all potential hazards, with particular regard to security of the premises, to protect children and staff from potentially harmful situations. 	13/04/2018

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

- extend partnerships with parents even further to establish clear and consistent arrangements for changes to school collection
- develop communication with other providers that children attend, to support a consistent approach to meeting their needs
- further develop self-evaluation processes used to identify weaknesses, and plan improvements that help to protect children from harm and keep them safe at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector accompanied staff on a nursery and school collection.
- The inspector considered parents' and children's views through discussion and spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector and manager jointly observed children during a routine activity.
- The inspector spoke to the manager about how she organises the club, recruits and supports staff, and plans activities for children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including risk assessments, registers, and policies.

Inspector

Tristine Hardwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. Failures in the leadership and management result in breaches to the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare register. Although the manager completes risk assessments of the premises and appropriately identifies significant hazards, these are not effective. The manager does not take any action to improve the security of the premises and fails to maintain children's safety. She leaves the premises unlocked when children are present and does not ensure she and staff are vigilant enough to notice when visitors or parents arrive. This exposes children to the risk of unauthorised people entering, as well as children leaving without their knowledge. The manager and staff exchange some information with other providers and parents, although this is not extensive enough to help them complement learning elsewhere, or to help parents understand staff's responsibilities to keep children safe during school-collection times. The manager follows appropriate procedures to help ensure staff's ongoing suitability to work with children and provides ongoing support for staff, such as identifying training needs. The manager and staff know how to identify and report any concerns they have about children's welfare and keep their knowledge of child protection procedures up to date well. Self-evaluation is ineffective to ensure the provider keeps children safe. However, the manager and staff have made some improvements since the last inspection, such as increasing the range of opportunities for children to be physically active.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff teach children to be independent. For example, they hang up their belongings when they arrive and wash their hands. Children are confident and enjoy the refreshments staff offer. They pour drinks for themselves and eat healthy snacks. Staff interact well with children and extend their ideas effectively. For example, the youngest children choose to play with dolls. Staff join in and talk to them about what they are doing and how their day at school or nursery has been, helping to build good communication skills. Children choose to play independently or with their friends. For instance, a group of older and younger girls share ideas for Easter crafts as they all sit together.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Ineffective leadership results in unnecessary compromise to the security of the premises and to children's safety. Partnerships with parents are not as effective as they could be. The manager and staff do not ensure parents are fully aware of their responsibility to keep them well informed of changes to collection arrangements after school. As a result, children wait unnecessarily until staff identify who they are due to collect or not. Similarly, while the manager and staff gather some information from other providers, this relates to children's well-being and does not consider how they may complement children's development needs. Although the weaknesses affect the overall safety of children, they are happy. They behave well and enjoy opportunities to relax or to be active as they please.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY447319
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	1131881
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	3 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	Michelle Louise Whatton
Registered person unique reference number	RP910639
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2015
Telephone number	07568313700

The Larks Out of School Club registered in 2012. It operates from St. Barbara Hall in Lark Hill, near Salisbury. The club opens each weekday during term time, from 7am to 8.45am and from 3.15pm to 5.30pm. There are five members of staff, most of whom hold an appropriate qualification. The manager is qualified to level 5, one member of staff is qualified to level 3, two at level 2 and one member of staff is unqualified.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children’s learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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