

Shotley Bridge After School Club

St Cuthberts Church Hall, Church Bank, Consett, DH8 0NW



Inspection date

3 May 2018

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Children enjoy attending this warm and friendly club following their day in school. They are motivated to engage in the range of activities provided, indoors and outdoors.
- Staff are well qualified and interact well with children. They are helped to improve their skills further through observations of their practice and ongoing supervision meetings with the manager.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are proactive in sharing their positive experiences of the club and describe how their children benefit from attending additional activity sessions, such as learning about first aid.
- The manager and her staff team work well with the local schools children also attend, to provide continuity in children's individual needs. Links are made with any external professionals, who may also be involved with children, to further meet their specific requirements.
- Daily opportunities to access the well-resourced outdoor environment supports children's physical health.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully considered how to promote children's early writing skills, to complement their learning in school even further.
- Although there is an area where children can relax after their day in school, this is quite small and does not enable more than a few children to access this space.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills and complement their learning in school even further
- provide even more opportunities for children who wish to rest following their day in school.

Inspection activities

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

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff confidently describe signs or symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know who to contact should they have any concerns about a child's well-being. Children are supervised well by the staff team, particularly when playing outdoors. For example, staff position themselves at different parts of the outdoor environment, ensuring the entrance and areas where the ground slopes, are covered at all times. The manager is well supported by her deputy to maintain an overview of the club. They plan activities together, ensuring most experiences provided complement children's learning in school. Self-evaluation is good and takes account of the views of staff, parents and children. For example, parents receive regular questionnaires to help identify ways to improve the club. The manager acts upon ideas shared and has plans in place to extend the club's hours of operation.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's interests form the basis for staff to plan activities at the club. This information is initially gathered when children first start attending. For example, children complete an 'Introduce yourself' document. They share what they like to play with and staff provide these experiences for them. Staff interact well with children and, overall, provide a good range of activities that complements children's learning in school. Some activities are based around children's favourite stories. For instance, staff read a book about pirates, using the tone in their voice skilfully to reflect the characters. Children enthusiastically join in with familiar phrases, such as the pirates 'roar'. They engage well with activities associated with the book and explore resources, such as a compass, telescopes and a variety of pirate patches. Children demonstrate what they already know about this equipment and proudly say, 'North, south, east and west' when they see the compass.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to develop an awareness of safe practices, especially when they walk from school to the club. Children confidently describe how they hold the hands of staff or older children and talk about how this keeps them safe. Children behave very well in the club. They listen and follow instructions during routine activities, such as registration time. Relationships are strong throughout the club. Staff are positive role models for children and are kind and courteous towards them. Children respond well, demonstrating good manners towards staff and each other. For example, children say, 'Thank you', when they are given resources during activities. Good-quality information is gathered from parents when children first start attending. This includes details of any medical needs or allergies children may have. Information is used well by staff to provide continuity in the care children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY498788
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1041695
Type of provision	Sessional 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	50
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	Big Hands Little Hands Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901028
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07745 086 793

Shotley Bridge After School Club registered in 2016. The club employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.45am until 9am and 3.15pm until 5.30pm.

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