

The Den Multi-Active Biggleswade



Holmemead Middle School, Mead End, Biggleswade SG18 8JU

Inspection date	6 August 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The key-person system is not strong enough to ensure that all young children have consistent emotional support and so, at times, they are unsettled.
- Staff do not take enough account of children's interests and abilities when planning the activity programme. Activities do not consistently motivate and inspire children, which, in some instances, affects their enjoyment.
- Staff do not provide clear messages to children about the importance of safety in the sun when playing outdoors.

It has the following strengths

- Children have good relationships with each other. They form firm friendships and play together harmoniously.
- Staff supervise children well during their play. They carry out daily checks to make sure the rooms and outdoor spaces used by the children are safe and secure.
- Parents have a good opinion of the club. They say they receive comprehensive information about the activities their children experience. Parents have opportunities to comment on the club and offer ideas for improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due date
improve the key-person system to ensure that every child's care is consistently tailored to meet their individual needs.	31/08/2018

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

- take better account of children's individual interests and abilities when planning activities, to inspire them and enhance their motivation and enjoyment
- help children to develop their understanding of safe practices when playing outdoors in the sunshine.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the premises used by the children and the resources available to them.
- The inspector met with directors and the manager to discuss management processes. She checked documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff, their qualifications, children's records and some policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector and the manager evaluated the activities and the quality of interactions between staff and children.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff have regular training to maintain their understanding of safeguarding procedures. They have a suitable understanding of the signs of child abuse or neglect. Staff have appropriate skills or qualifications. They undergo suitability checks before working with the children and necessary training is planned and completed, such as first-aid qualifications. Staff meet together frequently and have support meetings with their managers. The provider keeps parents informed of any changes to policies and procedures. For example, as a result of recent hot weather, children's lunchboxes are now stored in an air-conditioned room. Parents have advice on additional health measures, such as providing an ice pack. Although the provider plans a varied programme of activities, some are not well planned and presented to engage and motivate children fully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff make good use of group times to help children learn each other's names and play cooperative games. They remind children of rules and boundaries to help them to play together. Children enjoy active physical games, such as 'dodgeball'. They demonstrate respect for one another. For example, during the 'talent shows', they watch politely and attentively as other children perform their acts. Generally, children occupy themselves adequately. They make paper aeroplanes and show them to staff. Children make models from construction sets and take part in drawing and colouring. However some activities, such as creative arts and crafts, lack challenge and interest. Staff ask children for their feedback at the end of the holiday clubs, which are incorporated into an emerging self-evaluation process.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Although young children have a key person allocated when they join the club, the system is not fully effective. There are no contingencies to maintain support for children's emotional needs when their special person is not present. When young children become unsettled or upset, not all staff have the knowledge they need to offer the right comfort and distraction. Nevertheless, most children enjoy being at the club. They say they make friends and find some activities exciting, such as the 'bouncy slide'. Staff make sure children who are developing their ability to manage their own personal care have frequent opportunities to use the toilet. They encourage children to refill their water bottles and remind them to drink frequently. Due to hot and sunny weather, children play inside during the hottest part of the day. However, staff do not consistently remind children of healthy practices when playing outdoors at other times of the day, such as the importance of wearing sunscreen and hats.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY549143
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10057538
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	2 - 12
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	59
Name of registered person	Multi-Active Holiday Courses Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP547413
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07561416208

The Den Multi-Active Biggleswade registered in 2017. The club employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens Monday to Friday during term time, and sessions are from 7.30am until 8.45am and from 3pm until 6pm. Holiday clubs operate during each school holiday, on Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm.

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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