

# Acorns Club

Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, GRAVESEND, Kent DA12 4LG



<b>Inspection date</b>	29 August 2018
Previous inspection date	30 March 2016

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

### The provision is good

- Strong leadership places great emphasis on providing staff with ongoing support to help them to continue to maintain the good-quality provision. Staff attend regular training to build on their skills and extend their knowledge further. Effective systems are embedded to monitor the quality of staff practice and performance. This supports them to continue to meet all children's needs.
- Leaders follow safeguarding procedures to ensure that children are fully safeguarded. Staff are alert to the signs that may indicate that a child is at risk of abuse. There are clear club procedures in place and staff know how to respond to any concerns about children's welfare.
- Staff know the children well. They take account of children's requests and interests, and provide a wide range of activities that children enjoy. This helps the children stay enthusiastic and motivated in their play.
- Staff praise children for their achievements and efforts, which helps to raise children's confidence and self-esteem. Children receive successful support to increase their skills and have lots of fun.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally complete tasks for the children that they are capable of doing for themselves.
- Handwashing is not always monitored effectively enough to make sure this practice is naturally embedded into routines.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to encourage children to do things for themselves where they are capable of this
- extend children's understanding of hygiene routines even further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities and experiences.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and their qualifications, and sampled relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.
- The inspector invited the club manager to undertake a joint observation with her and, together, they evaluated the observation.

#### Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager regularly evaluates the club environment and play opportunities. For example, she carries out regular observations, and seeks the views of parents, staff and children to identify aspects of the provision to develop further. Mealtimes have been effectively enhanced and children make the most of opportunities to extend on their social skills. The changes made help to keep children motivated during their time at the club. Safeguarding is effective. High priority is given to keeping children safe within the club, as it is based in a public facility. Staff deploy themselves well. They are vigilant and implement effective procedures and risk assessments to protect children from harm and maintain a safe environment.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a wide range of stimulating experiences that engages children in their play. They listen to children's opinions and allow them to make choices about which activities they take part in. For instance, children enjoy creative activities, group games and different experiences, such as live animal handling workshops. Children are excited and inspired by the opportunities that they have at the club and staff effectively follow their lead. Staff successfully adapt activities to meet the needs of the wide age range of children who attend. Children imaginatively create animals and proudly show staff what they have made. Staff encourage children's physical skills well. For example, children have daily opportunities to swim, explore large equipment, such as trampolines and inflatables, and take part in competitive games. Staff actively get involved with children's play, which supports them to stay engaged and interested in the activities. Partnerships with parents are good. Staff and parents share information about activities and routines in which the children take part. This supports children's continuity of care.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate a clear understanding of the club rules and their behaviour is generally good. All children are encouraged to be polite and have a good understanding of sharing and taking turns. Staff help support children with their growing awareness of healthy eating. For example, during snack and mealtimes the children engage in conversations about healthy food choices. They enjoy reflective discussions about their own personal experiences and explore how they differ from one another. Children of all ages are happy and confident, supported by their very good relationships with staff.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	126961
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	10063860
<b>Type of provision</b>	Out-of-school day care
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Age range of children</b>	5 - 12
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	49
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Gravesham Community Leisure Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP902287
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	30 March 2016
<b>Telephone number</b>	01474 337 471

Acorns Club registered in 2000 and is situated in Gravesend, Kent. The holiday club operates from 7.45am to 6pm, during school holidays only. There are 29 staff who work with the children; of these, three hold qualified teacher status and 12 hold relevant childcare qualifications between level 2 and level 6.

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