

Strathmore Fun Club

Strathmore Infant School, Old Hale Way, HITCHIN, Hertfordshire SG5
1XR



Inspection date	5 December 2018
Previous inspection date	20 October 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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

This provision is good

- Children are happy and settled. They build strong bonds with staff and form secure friendships with other children.
- The manager is effective in promoting opportunities for staff to develop their continuous professional development. Regular supervision and team meetings help staff to feel valued and enable them to identify their own strengths and areas for improvements. This supports staff to identify further training to improve their skills.
- Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. For example, children play a range of games, such as football. In addition to this, children confidently initiate opportunities to practise their gymnastic and dance routines.
- The key-person system is effective. Parents communicate on a daily basis with key staff and they share information effectively. This provides good opportunities for staff to meet children's specific and individual needs.
- Children engage for long periods of time. They use their initiative to create individual items of interest during art and craft activities. Staff praise children for skilfully using their imaginations. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem.
- The manager and her staff team evaluate their setting to promote continuous improvements. For example, they regularly seek the views of parents and children and consistently reflect on activities to ensure that they can continually provide experiences that children enjoy.
- On occasions, staff do not always make strong links with the schools that children attend to enable a consistent, shared approach to children's care and experiences.
- Although children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club and choose from resources made available, staff have not considered ways to encourage them to take a more active role in the day-to-day planning of activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with other settings that children attend to consistently support and compliment children's care and experiences
- extend opportunities for children to make more choices about the range of activities available each day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector accompanied staff on a walk to a local school to collect children.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's enjoyment.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and the deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of the committee members and staff working in the club.

Inspector
Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff attend regular child protection training and know the signs and symptoms of abuse. Staff are confident of the procedure to follow if they have concerns about the welfare of the children in their care. This promotes children's safety and well-being. Staff talk to children about their personal safety. For example, they remind children to use their walking feet inside the club and reiterate the importance in using toys and resources appropriately. This helps children to stay safe. Staff have effective partnerships with parents and they work well together to support and encourage children. Staff warmly welcome parents into the club and ensure that they are consistently updated with news and events. Parents speak highly of the well-established staff team. They comment on how happy and settled their children are. In addition to this, parents comment on the very good friendships their children make with children from different local schools.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team regularly observe young children and incorporate children's interests into planned activities. Staff join in with children's play and they show a genuine enjoyment of their roles. For example, children play imaginatively as they pretend to be train drivers, with staff and other children playing the role of customers on the train. Staff extend children's enjoyment. They ask questions that encourage children to think further. Staff listen and show interest in children's games. This encourages children to spend long periods of time at their chosen activities. Staff motivate children through the activities and experiences they provide. They engage children in meaningful conversations. For example, children create decorative angels, which prompts discussion between staff and children about the various textures, colours and materials they use. Children take pride in showing parents their decorative art work, which is displayed for everyone to see.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have daily opportunities to develop their understanding of health and hygiene. Staff are consistent in their approach to teaching children the importance of healthy lifestyles. They encourage children to follow appropriate hand washing routines and they provide regular opportunities for children to have fresh air and exercise. Children eat a broad range of snacks and meals. Staff provide a good balance of fresh fruit and vegetables each day. They pay close attention to children's individual dietary needs. This enables them to support children effectively at mealtimes. Children behave well. Staff are consistent in their approach to teaching children right from wrong but also embrace older children's enjoyment of superheroes. Children show care and concern for others. For example, children in mixed-age groups make biscuits together, using appropriate tools. Older children naturally help younger children. They wait patiently for their turn and talk about their day at school. This shows the friendly relationships children have and their good understanding of being kind to others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	146767
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063524
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Hitchin and Strathmore Fun Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP523449
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2015
Telephone number	01462 438499

Strathmore Fun Club registered in 1998 and is one of two clubs privately run by a management committee. The setting employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including the manager who holds an early years degree. The setting opens Monday to Friday, from 3pm until 6.30pm, term time only.

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