

Witton Acorns

WITTON CHURCH WALK C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, Church Walk,
Northwich CW9 5QQ



Inspection date	4 June 2019
Previous inspection date	20 July 2016

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

- The atmosphere in the club is relaxed and children are comfortable in their surroundings. Staff interact positively with children during activities and encourage them to make choices in their play.
- Children have good relationships with staff. They are keen to tell staff about their achievements in school, such as being 'star of the day'. Children of all ages play well together. They are polite, well behaved and they develop close friendships with one another.
- Staff form positive links with parents and teachers from the host school. They chat to parents daily and use social media to keep parents informed of activities and events.
- Parents confirm that children enjoy attending the club and are often reluctant to leave. They describe staff as being very 'friendly' and 'supportive'.
- Staff do not consistently teach children about the importance of following high standards of hygiene to help them stay healthy.
- Staff do not routinely encourage children to share their interests and contribute their ideas to help inform the 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:

- help children to deepen their understanding about the importance of following high standards of hygiene to keep themselves healthy
- increase opportunities for children to be more involved in the planning of activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the range of activities available and assessed the quality of interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children. She carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and looked at a range of documentation, including 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
Jan Linsdell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager carries out appropriate checks on staff to make sure they are suitable to work in the club. She reviews risks assessments annually and conducts daily checks on the premises and outside areas. This helps to minimise any hazards so that children can play safely. The manager and staff attend training to refresh their knowledge of child protection procedures. They are clear about how to seek advice and report any concerns about children's welfare. The manager works alongside staff to supervise and monitor their practice. She listens to the views of staff and parents to help her think about areas to improve.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager is key person to younger children. She meets with teachers to discuss children's needs and to check if they need any further support. This helps to promote continuity in children's care and learning. Staff plan some activities linked to themes. They encourage children to lead their own play and make their own choices. The storage cupboard is left open so that children can help themselves to a range of resources to support their play. Children initiate their own games and they enjoy drawing, playing with the cars and chatting with their friends. Staff engage children in conversations, for instance, about what they did in the school holidays. This helps to promote children's communication skills. They help children to develop their early mathematical skills. One way they do this is by playing board games that encourage children to roll the dice and work out how many spaces they need to move.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

School collection procedures are safe and well organised. Staff ask teachers about children's day at school and check if any messages need to be shared with parents. They quickly follow up any unexplained absences so that all children are safely accounted for. Children are settled and they enjoy their time playing with friends. Staff help children to develop their social skills. One example of this is during snack time, when staff remind children to use their manners and to sit properly at the table. Children are offered a choice of snack and they help themselves to fresh fruit. They competently pour their own drinks and clear away their own plates when they have finished eating. This helps to encourage responsibility. During the inspection, poor weather prevented children from playing outside. However, photographs show that children typically engage in outdoor activities, such as playing football and balancing on ropes and tyres. The planning book also shows that children take part in activities that teach them about the importance of exercise and sleep. Children learn about road safety and keeping themselves safe on the internet. They show an awareness of safety rules. For example, they know they must keep out of the kitchen area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY466265
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10106726
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children	4 - 10
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Witton Acorn Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532853
Date of previous inspection	20 July 2016
Telephone number	0160643128

Witton Acorns registered in 2013. The club employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 8.50am and 3.15pm until 6pm.

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