

Swallowfield After School Club

Swallowfield Lower School, Weathercock Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8SL



Inspection date	18 June 2019
Previous inspection date	7 December 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not Applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- This is a strong provision, with some excellent aspects. The leadership and staff are well qualified and highly experienced. They work exceptionally well together and there is a shared commitment to improve the quality of the provision to the highest standard.
- The provider has effective arrangements in place for staff training and professional development. Staff talk about the positive influence this has on their practice. For example, they have developed new ideas on how to implement risky play opportunities. Staff explain how this enables children to think of ways to keep themselves safe.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the welcoming and nurturing club. They readily use a 'worry box' to help them to express any concerns they have. Staff sensitively help children to learn to support each other. For example, they encourage them to share strategies they use to overcome worries, such as starting in new classes or schools. This has a highly positive impact on children's well-being and mental health.
- Staff provide activities that are of great interest to children. As they hunt for stones buried in sand staff explain what archaeologists do. They encourage children to use books to gain more information. This supports children's learning at school effectively.
- Partnership working is not as strong as it could be. For example, staff do not have the best possible links with children's teachers at school and parents' views on the club are not consistently sought.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the good partnership working with the host school further, to help build on children's skills and complement their learning to the fullest
- find more effective ways of gaining the views of parents, to help develop the evaluations of the club to higher levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at areas of the premises that are used by the club, including the outdoor area.
- The inspector discussed the activities available with the provider and manager and observed activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including the suitability and qualifications of staff working in the club and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children spoken to at the time of the inspection.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. They are aware of the procedures for reporting concerns or allegations. Clear policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and understood by all staff. The staff team is well established and turnover is low. Nonetheless, rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. This helps to ensure that when new staff are required, they are thoroughly checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children. Staff's performance is closely monitored through peer observations and supervision meetings. They undertake regular training to help develop their knowledge and skills and this has a positive impact on their practice. Staff talk about how training on risky play has enabled them to widen the play opportunities available to children. For example, they have introduced children to woodwork activities using real tools.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff take time to find out about children's interests when they start to attend the club. This helps them to get to know them well. Children enjoy taking part in a range of craft and drawing activities. Staff encourage children to make their own creations and develop their own ideas. For example, children make observational drawings of toy dinosaurs and cut out pictures from magazines to make collages. Staff encourage children to practise using the skills they are learning at school, such as writing words to describe their pictures. Children engage in their chosen activity very well and remain motivated for significant amounts of time. Staff are aware that some children want relaxation after a busy day at school. There is good provision for children to relax and rest or read a book. Other children choose to explore outside, such as to look for minibeasts. Staff find magnifying pots so children can look at the minibeasts closely. Children handle the insects carefully and choose to take them inside to use them for further observational drawings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's welfare and personal development is central to everything staff do. There is a very positive culture and welcoming atmosphere throughout the club. Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff use praise effectively to reinforce positive behaviour and good manners. Children's views are gained as part of the club's evaluation. For example, each day children are asked to give feedback on the activities and their experiences at the club. This deepens children's involvement, knowing their views are valued and acted on. Children learn the importance of being active and eating healthy food. They delight in spending time outdoors. Children are energetic as they engage in ball games, climbing and riding scooters. Their self-care and independence skills are nurtured through stringent hygiene procedures and snack-time routines. Parents' views about the club are highly positive. They say the staff are attentive, caring and look after children very well. Parents say their children are excited to attend and are always highly engaged in activities when they arrive to pick them up.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422911
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10106716
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 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Tierney, Joanne Bernadette
Registered person unique reference number	RP513934
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2015
Telephone number	01908582101

Swallowfield After School Club registered in 2011 and is located in Milton Keynes. It employs five members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from Monday until Thursday in school term time, from 3.30pm to 6pm.

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