

Inspection of Little K's

North Thatchams Children's Centre, Park Lane, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3PG

Inspection date:

8 June 2021

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not Met (with actions)

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children play in a welcoming and bright environment that is safe and secure. They are happy and settled at the club. Children enjoy playing in the outdoor environment and on their arrival, some immediately take part in a lively team game with their friends. This gives them an opportunity to play energetically after their day at school. Others, who prefer to relax, enjoy sitting in the shade under a tree, catching up with their friends. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and children behave very well. Children are polite and form good relationships with staff and each other. When necessary, staff provide them with gentle reminders about safe play. For example, they reminded a child that they may hurt themselves or others if they swing a bucket over their head. Staff are highly attuned to the needs of any children who may feel unsettled following their break from attending school and the club during the pandemic. They are quick to notice this and provide comfort to children to support their emotional well-being. Children are considerate to the needs of their friends. For instance, younger children were quick to help each other to pour a drink from the water jug.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The provider has taken effective steps to meet the actions set at the last inspection. For example, the club has strengthened its partnership with parents and the school that children attend. As a result, staff have a fuller picture of children's needs and provide greater consistency in their care.
- Staff know all of the children very well. They adapt the routines and activities effectively to meet each child's individual needs and engage purposefully with them as they play. Staff chat with children to support their language skills and encourage them to persevere during games. For instance, they supported younger children well, to keep trying when they were attempting to throw a ball through a hoop.
- Children enjoy the activities that are on offer. They make independent choices and follow their own ideas with confidence. For example, staff helped children to design and make their own diaries when a book another child was reading captured their interest.
- Children play an active part in the life of the club and their views are valued. The club council, which is made up of children of all ages, meets up regularly to help decide on the behaviour rules and to consider any changes they would like to make. This gives children good opportunities to have their voices heard and their views taken into account.
- Children follow well-established hygiene routines to support their good health. They wash their hands before and after arriving at the club. They know the importance of washing their hands to reduce the spread of infection, and do so

without reminding.

- Children say they really like the snacks they receive. They enjoy choosing from a range of healthy sandwiches and wraps, along with slices of fresh fruits and vegetables. Staff preparing children's snacks wear appropriate protective gloves, to reduce the spread of germs and to help maintain children's good health.
- Staff manage children's behaviour well. They provide good role models and treat children with respect. However, staff miss opportunities to plan activities that deepen children's understanding of diversity and prepare them effectively for life in modern Britain.
- Parents spoken to during the inspection report a high level of satisfaction with the club. They appreciate the efforts staff make to share information with them, despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic. For example, parents say staff always take the time to chat with them when they collect their children and contact them by email or text if necessary.
- Staff have regular opportunities to attend training to further enhance their skills. They say they feel well supported in their roles. They help to evaluate the quality of the provision and make suggestions for ongoing improvements.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have updated their safeguarding training since the time of the last inspection. This helps to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles effectively. They are confident about the signs that may indicate a child's welfare is at risk and know how to escalate any concerns in a timely manner if needed. Staff are clear about the action they should take if there are changes in their suitability. The provider has implemented an effective safeguarding policy with respect to the use of mobile phones in the setting and all staff are clear that their use is not permitted.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY363871
Local authority	West Berkshire
Inspection number	10193085
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 at time of inspection	4 to 11
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	West, Karen Anita
Registered person unique reference number	RP907482
Telephone number	07786 871 756
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2020

Information about this early years setting

Little K's re-registered in 2007 and operates from Thatcham and Central Family Hub, in Thatcham, West Berkshire. The club is open each weekday from 3pm until 6pm during school term times. There are four members of staff. Of these, three staff hold appropriate qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Margaret Davie

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector discussed the organisation of the activities with the provider.
- The children and some parents had discussions with the inspector, who sought their views of the setting.
- The inspector spoke with the provider about her vision for the setting. She sampled a range of documentation, including first-aid certificates.
- Staff spoke with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection to discuss their understanding of the setting's policies and procedures.

We carried out this inspection 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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