

Inspection of Little Rascals Out Of School

Cherry Tree Primary School, Berry Avenue, WATFORD WD24 6ST

Inspection date:

13 September 2021

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Not met (enforcement)

Previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

Children's safety and well-being are undermined by breaches of requirements identified during this inspection. In addition, the provider has failed to address some of breaches of requirements she acknowledged at a prior visit. Some children, particularly younger ones, do not have resources and activities that are tailored to their interests. The provider does not find out relevant information about their likes and dislikes when they first start. While staff are kind to children, they do not know enough about some children to meet their needs.

Older children, particularly those who have been at the club for a while, know where to find toys that they want. Older children are generally well occupied and have opportunities to develop physical and social skills. For example, as they organise a game of football, they enjoy exercise in the fresh air and learn to cooperate with each other. Other children kick their feet in leaves and catch balls in cups. Children behave well and are kind to one another. Children make selections from their lunchboxes, choosing a snack independently. Staff help them to fetch their water bottles, helping them to manage their own health needs.

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

- The provider, who is also the manager, has taken some action to meet notices that were served following a previous visit to the club. For example, she has ensured that there is least one person present with a full paediatric first-aid qualification at all times when the club is in operation. She has attended training to improve her own knowledge of the appropriate methods for managing children's behaviour.
- The provider has failed to meet other notices served following the previous visit. She has not ensured that the designated person for safeguarding can understand and implement procedures to recognise, respond to and refer potential concerns about children. Additionally, she has not gathered relevant information about children, especially when they first start, to meet their needs and to help staff engage with them.
- The provider has not appointed a named deputy manager who is capable to take charge in her absence. When the provider is not present, there is no person to ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills they need to meet children's needs, or to plan interesting things for them to do. The provider has not allocated all children in the early years age range a key person. This means that there are poor settling arrangements for some younger children who are new to the club. While they find something to do from the toy cupboard, staff do not interact with them to make sure they feel secure and welcomed.
- The provider has not made sure that staff have access to specific medication

that children may need to ensure their good health. She has not sought permission from parents to administer such medication. This means that staff may be unable to respond to children's needs quickly to ensure their safety.

- Children play cooperatively and enjoy playing games outside in the fresh air. Minor disagreements are managed well by staff, who remind children what is expected of them. Older children play together happily. However, younger children do not have sufficient engagement from staff to help them to develop their social skills, or to fully explore toys and games at the club.
- Parents report that their children like coming to club and are happy here. Parents appreciate the flexibility the opening times of the after-school-club provide and state that their children form warm attachments to particular members of staff.
- Areas and equipment used by children are safe and suitable to meet their needs. For example, children play with well-maintained toys and equipment. There is a secure entry system and a well-enclosed outdoor area, and staff supervise children as they play.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The designated person for safeguarding does not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of child protection matters to ensure that all staff can recognise and respond to signs of concern about children in a timely manner. Staff have not been trained to understand local procedures for child protection or how to contact relevant agencies with any concerns. The provider has failed to meet a previous notice served requiring them to improve the knowledge of the designated person for safeguarding.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is not meeting requirements and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
ensure that the designated person for safeguarding has sufficient knowledge and understanding of local child protection arrangements to train staff to understand how to protect children, and to respond to concerns without delay	12/10/2021

enable a regular two-way flow of information with parents and/or carers, and between providers, if a child is attending more than one setting, to help ensure the needs of all children are met	12/10/2021
implement effective systems to promote the good health of children, to ensure that staff understand any child's need for medicines and to make sure they have access to their necessary medications at all times while attending	12/10/2021
ensure that each child on the early years register has a named key person, to tailor their care to their individual needs in order to help them become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents	12/10/2021
ensure there is a named deputy who is capable of taking charge in the manager's absence.	12/10/2021

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY458853
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10206619
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 10
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	20
Name of registered person	Hine, Moira
Registered person unique reference number	RP907199
Telephone number	07763214360
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Little Rascals Out Of School registered in 2013. The club employs four members of childcare staff. It opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 8.50am for the breakfast club and 3.15pm until 6pm for the after-school club.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Naomi Brown

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- This inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- Interactions between staff and children were observed by the inspector.
- Several parents spoke with the inspector during the inspection and their views were taken into account.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.

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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