

Inspection of Tree Tops Breakfast And After School Club At Blackthorns CP Academy

Blackthorns C P Academy, 3 Blackthorns Close, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, Sussex
RH16 2UA

Inspection date:

17 November 2021

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children are happy and secure. They look forward to spending time at the club each day and settle well. Staff are attentive and kind. They help children to feel valued and respected. As such, children display a firm sense of belonging and confidence in their own abilities. Staff prioritise outdoor learning and recognise the importance of children having space and fresh air after their busy day at school. Children investigate the wooded areas to create 'bug hotels' and dens from logs. Older children are given the responsibility to organise larger group games. This helps to support their sense of achievement and pride.

Staff are good role models, who help children to understand their expectations and the club routines and rules. Children listen, follow instructions and use good manners. They behave well and older children are attentive and caring towards the younger children. For instance, they help them to write letters on paper for the group treasure hunt, which helps all children to feel included. The staff use robust risk assessments to help to keep children safe and secure. They help children to manage risk in their play, such as using large-scale equipment or taking part in lighting fires in adult-led activities.

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

- The provider places an importance on fully supporting the staff team. A detailed and thorough induction is in place, which enables staff to carry out their roles and responsibilities well. Staff receive regular supervision and staff meetings to share their own views and suggestions. This helps staff to feel valued and respected for their own contributions.
- The staff help children to develop an understanding of healthy eating, hygiene, and making good choices in the food they eat. Children have access to nutritious snacks, fresh water and immediately recognise when they are required to wash their hands. Children are encouraged to be independent in their own self-care skills, such as recognising when they need to put on a coat for outdoor play.
- The staff have opportunities to build on their continuous professional development. The management team precisely plans for staff to have many opportunities to update their knowledge. Staff access online and face-to-face training and this helps them to provide a high level of care for children.
- Staff help to support children's communication and language and take the time to speak to children. For example, children delight in talking about their recent school trip. Staff provide a good range of activities and opportunities for children to make their own choices in their play.
- Self-evaluation is used well to identify areas for improvement. The comments of the staff team, children, and parents are valued in helping to inform further

areas for change. The site supervisor seeks the views of parents on regular questionnaires. She uses this information to ensure that parents also feel supported and informed of their children's time at the club.

- Children enjoy using their imagination. They re-create works of art and recall information about famous artists. Children spend lots of time concentrating and persevering on tasks of their own choosing and share well with others. For example, they use their increasing small physical and problem-solving skills, as they connect small intricate pieces of a puzzle.
- Staff plan for different exciting experiences to keep children entertained. Children enjoy taking part in 'treasure hunts' and 'torch tag', when it starts to get dark outside. This helps to keep them motivated and engaged in their play. However, younger children do not have access to a quiet area, should they require time away from the busy environment.
- Staff have established good partnerships with parents and the school to gain information about children's changing needs and requirements. They take time each day to speak directly to parents. Younger children have a dedicated key person, who directly looks after all aspects of their care and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are knowledgeable in how they would protect the children in their care. There are good policies and procedures in place that are reviewed on a regular basis to keep information up to date. Staff know how to identify potential signs of abuse and how they would report any concerns to protect the welfare of children. Efficient processes for recruiting staff ensures the suitability of all staff who work directly with the children. Staff attend regular training and updates to keep them aware of changes to safeguarding. The camera system in place ensures access to the club is monitored to help to keep children safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2538978
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10208648
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	40
Number of children on roll	140
Name of registered person	Wild-Life Day Camps Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535364
Telephone number	07557519566
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Tree Tops Breakfast And After School Club At Blackthorns CP Academy operates from Blackthorns CP Academy in Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The club is open Monday to Friday during term time from 7am until 9am and from 3pm until 6.30pm. The club employs four members of staff, one of whom holds a relevant qualification at level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Gwendolyn Andrews

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the nominated individual and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- A range of documentation was sampled, including suitability checks, policies and procedures, staff recruitment procedures and training. The inspector observed children at play and staff interactions in both the indoor and outdoor environment.
- The inspector held discussions with the nominated individual, the wider management team, the site supervisor, the staff and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection. The inspector spoke directly to parents to gain their views.
- Discussions were held with staff about their safeguarding knowledge and understanding, including the procedures they would use to report any concerns for a child's welfare.
- The inspector discussed the use of self-evaluation and the current areas identified for improvement. The inspector completed a learning walk with the site supervisor around the areas school used for the breakfast- and after-school provision.

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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