

Inspection of Hitchin Fun Club At Highbury School

Highbury Infant School, Standhill Road, HITCHIN, Hertfordshire SG4 9AG

Inspection date:

30 November 2021

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

**This
inspection**

Not met (with actions)

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

Overall, children enjoy their time at the club. However, arrangements in the school dining area used at the start of the session do not consistently meet the needs of the children. Children are required sit to for a sustained period of time and have limited access to a range of alternative resources and activities. Their behaviours begin to deteriorate and noise levels begin to rise. For example, during circle time, children fidget and do not always listen to staff and, after their snack, some children run energetically around the room and slide along the floor. Furthermore, a breach of requirements in relation to child protection undermines children's safety and well-being.

Nevertheless, children are warmly welcomed by the staff and demonstrate that they are happy and settled. They enjoy the company of their friends and develop appropriate relationships with staff. When the children move from the dining area to the school hall, they have more effective opportunities to independently choose from a wider range of resources and activities. They have fun and become engaged in their play with their friends. Children extend their problem-solving and hand-to-eye coordination skills as they design and build their own marble runs. They learn to take their turn and to follow instructions during games such as snap and matching pairs. Children use their imaginations as they play with the cars and toy garage. They enjoy manoeuvring the vehicles along the floor.

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

- Weaknesses in the overarching safeguarding procedure means that children's well-being is potentially compromised. Additionally, arrangements at the start of the session are not consistently effective. Children, occasionally, demonstrate inappropriate behaviours, and opportunities for them to access a range of activities and resources after a busy day at school are limited.
- Children are provided with healthy, balanced and nutritious snacks during their time at the club. Staff obtain information regarding any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies, and ensure they adhere to this information accordingly. However, staff leave the children's snack uncovered on tables for a sustained period of time before it is eaten. Some of the sliced fruit became dry and a child was observed touching the snack on the table as they walked by. This increases the risk of contamination and compromises the children's health and well-being.
- Staff have adapted daily routines, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents are not allowed in the building, staff wear face coverings and the children's temperature is taken on arrival. Children regularly sanitise their hands during their time at the club.

- Staff are kind and care about the children in their care. They join in the children's play. Young children have a designated key person, and staff form appropriate relationships with staff at the school. This helps to ensure that children's care is tailored to their individual needs and that their ongoing development continues to be guided by the staff.
- Staff develop sound partnerships with parents, and when asked children are confident to talk about what they like to do when they come to the club. Some children say they really enjoy playing with the dolls and others speak about enjoying going outside to play.
- Staff receive ongoing supervision meetings with management. They complete all required mandatory training, and are encouraged to enhance their existing knowledge and skills by completing additional training. For example, staff have recently completed autism awareness and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder training. This increases their understand of how to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Management has not ensured that staff understand and can implement their safeguarding policies and procedures. Some staff, including one of the designated safeguarding leads, are unable to confidently identify possible signs of abuse and neglect, including radicalisation, and where they should report a concern. Staff complete risk assessments to ensure the premises and equipment used by the children is safe. They supervise the children appropriately. All staff are subject to appropriate checks to ensure they are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that the designated safeguarding lead, and all staff, can confidently identify signs of abuse and neglect, and understand and can implement the safeguarding procedures in order to safeguard children	24/12/2021
make sure arrangements, at the start of the session, meet the needs of the children attending	24/12/2021

ensure the good health of children, this refers to staff leaving the children's snack uncovered on tables for a sustained period of time before it is eaten.	24/12/2021
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Setting details

Unique reference number	2567156
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10216096
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 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Hitchin Fun Club At Highbury School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	2567155
Telephone number	07783027534
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Hitchin Fun Club At Highbury School registered in 2020. The club employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The club opens during term time from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 3.15pm until 6pm. Additionally, the club opens during school holidays and sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Ann Austen

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and provider, and has taken this into account in their evaluation of the club.
- The inspector took a tour of the club with the manager. They talked about how the club is organised and discussed the play opportunities they provide for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of interactions during indoor activities between staff and children.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- A sample of documents was reviewed by the inspector. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.
- Parents shared their views about the club with the inspector.
- The inspector held a meeting with the registered provider.

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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