

Inspection of Explorers Den

Hyde Park Junior School, Hyde Park Road, Plymouth, Devon PL3 4RH

Inspection date:

2 February 2022

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Staff enthusiastically greet children as they leave school. As they wait for their peers to arrive, staff ensure children keep busy from the beginning. For instance, children run up and down on the spot and sing 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' accompanied with actions. This helps to keep children entertained and active until everyone has arrived. Once at the club, children quickly become engaged in a good variety of activities. Children enjoy creative activities, such as dough or sand play. Older children impressively create sea creatures with the sand, using just their hands and their imagination. Younger children make pretend food and money with dough, so staff can 'buy' what they have made.

Children are happy and settled. They behave well and understand the rules of the club. For example, when staff clap their hands, children know to stop what they are doing and listen to an adult. Children are also aware that they need to wash their hands before eating and do so independently. Children are polite and caring towards each other and are confident to talk to visitors about their experiences.

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

- Children benefit from healthy lifestyles. Staff provide children with nutritious snacks, such as chicken, fruit and vegetables. Opportunities for outdoor play are good and children can free flow into the large school grounds and adventure playground. Children enjoy swinging on 'monkey bars' and playing ball games to expend their energy.
- Staff keep parents informed of their child's day, such as passing on information from the host school, as well as the activities their children have enjoyed at the club. Overall, parents provide positive comments and state how children enjoy attending.
- Staff plan a good range of activities to help keep children engaged. Although some children comment that they are not always asked by staff about what activities they would like to play with, to enable children to contribute to the planning.
- Children take part in cultural activities throughout the year. For instance, children make 'tigers' for Chinese New Year and use recycling materials to make these. They talk about the different animals that represent each year and the story that accompanies each animal. Children have a good understanding of the world around them.
- Links with other professionals are good. Staff invite various professionals into the club, such as basketball and football coaches and cheerleaders, to enable children to take part in a variety of physical activities. Additionally, during the summer, staff plan days where children can 'pitch and putt' and play traditional

fete games, including 'coconut shies'.

- Children work well as a team. They create 'marble runs' together, carefully putting together the pieces to create one large construction for their marbles to roll down. Children enjoy creating different hairstyles together on dolls and use various tools, such as pretend straighteners, brushes, combs and hair bands. They enjoy the company of others.
- Opportunities for children to rest and relax after their day at school are good. Children can read a book, play board games or complete jigsaws, either independently or with staff and peers alike.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the area manager recognises how difficult it has been for children placed within 'bubbles', meaning, at times, children could not be with their immediate friends. However, she has worked closely with staff and the on-site school to ensure children have always remained safe to help reduce the risk of transmission.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The managers and staff have a good understanding of child protection and how to recognise if a child's safety is at risk, including signs of extreme views and behaviours. Staff attend frequent safeguarding training to keep their knowledge up to date. The area manager also carries out additional in-house training to ensure staff are alert to dangers. For example, when children are not present, she sets up the club with potential hazards and staff work together to ensure they have identified all the risks. Staff carry out rigorous checks when collecting children from the school. They complete a register as children arrive and check with teachers about who is attending.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY469619
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	10106078
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	38
Number of children on roll	154
Name of registered person	Woodground Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903584
Telephone number	01752 661445
Date of previous inspection	3 April 2014

Information about this early years setting

Explorers Den registered in 2013 and is privately owned. It operates within the grounds of Hyde Park Infant and Junior Schools in Plymouth. The club collects children from the Hyde Park schools only and operates from the school's canteen. It operates Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 9am and from 3pm to 6pm, during term times. During school holidays, the club is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5.30pm, excluding bank holidays. There are five members of staff working with the children, three of whom hold a relevant childcare qualification, including the manager who holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Joanne Steward

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 provider and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector spoke to children about their thoughts and views of the club.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children, and the range of activities available.
- The area manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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