

Inspection of The Cookie Club

Wilshere Dacre Junior School, Fishponds Road, Hitchin SG5 1NS

Inspection date:

2 March 2022

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Met

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children arrive happy and settle quickly into activities at the club. Any child identified as needing a little support is quickly offered one-to-one time with staff to help them overcome any worries. Staff calmly speak to children and establish what is wrong, for example if a child has had a hard day at school or is feeling particularly tired. Staff offer children the opportunity to choose a new or favourite activity to help improve their mood. Many children are self-sufficient and staff recognise this and interact appropriately with them. Children seek guidance from staff when they need help. They are confident to ask them for what they need. Staff dip into conversations and activities with children and this is welcomed by the children.

Children show that they like being at the club. The marble-run building inspires children's creativity. A child exclaims 'This is awesome, I am so excited' as he selects pieces to make a complex run. Children demonstrate perseverance as they try to build runs that will allow the marbles to run all the way around. Staff support younger children appropriately when they need assistance with their building.

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

- Staff focus on supporting children to continue to build on their social skills as they have fun after school. They encourage children to try mindfulness to help them feel calm, in control and aware of their surroundings. They are clear that they are not providing education but are helping children to develop their skills through enjoyable experiences with friends.
- Children's creativity is encouraged. They are enthralled by the dinosaurs frozen into ice. They attempt to chip away the ice to release the dinosaurs. Children enjoy the still life painting. They closely observe the details of the daffodils and the vase. Children try hard to recreate the flowers on the paper. Some children use the paints to paint images of their family. Staff support this and show appreciation of what children produce. Children concentrate when they make the beaded keyrings. They use beads with letters embossed on each face. Staff ask children about the words they want to use. They support children to think of imaginative and kind words and help them with spelling.
- Leaders report positive relationships with the schools and other professionals to support children and families. They share important information about children to ensure they understand children's needs and any concerns that need to be monitored.
- Parents state that they are happy with the club. They say that staff are friendly and supportive and that they understand the children and make every effort to work with them to help children enjoy their time and to behave well.

Partnerships with parents are successful and they feel confident talking to staff.

- Children follow appropriate hygiene routines to help ensure their health and that of others. Before eating they wash their hands. Children eat healthy, balanced snacks and a light tea each afternoon. They benefit from time outdoors in the fresh air where they can move freely and play organised games. Staff arrange gardening activities and children have been successful in growing plants in window boxes.
- Children behave well at the club. Staff share the rules with children and support them to follow these consistently. They quickly alert children to any behaviour that is not appropriate and sensitively deal with issues. Children are kind to one another. They willingly share resources and take turns. They often make friendship bracelets and keyrings to give to others. There is a lot of effective cooperation between children and staff. Children are encouraged to suggest and plan experiences.
- Children demonstrate a positive attitude and show perseverance when faced with challenges. Older children support younger children to succeed. Staff explain that as a consequence of having to keep children in 'bubbles' during national restrictions, new friendships were developed.
- The leader, managers and staff report positive experiences of working as a team. Staff say they are supported by leaders and feel that they can talk to them about their work. There is scope to enhance the induction process for new staff to help them feel even more confident in their role.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and senior staff have secure safeguarding knowledge. Other staff understand the role of the designated person and state they would refer concerns about children's safety and well-being to those with designated safeguarding responsibility. All staff receive training to help them identify concerns. There are appropriate procedures and policies in place to help ensure children are protected from harm.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY472328
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10126185
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	36
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	The Cookie Club Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904382
Telephone number	07805024889
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

The Cookie Club was registered in 2013. It is one of three out-of-school clubs run by the provider. The club employs eight members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The manager has a childcare qualification at level 5. The setting is open Monday to Friday in term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am to 8.45am and from 3pm to 6.15pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Reeves

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 leaders and has taken this into account in the evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children indoors and outside.
- The manager and the inspector discussed planned activities and the impact these had on children's enjoyment.
- The inspector spoke to parents who use the setting and considered their views.
- The inspector spoke with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of qualifications and suitability of staff working at the setting.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022