

Inspection of Little Acorns Before & After School Club

Light Oaks Infant School, Lancaster Road, Salford, Lancashire M6 8LU

Inspection date:

15 March 2022

**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 of all ages thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. They enter happily and are eager to play with their friends and take part in the activities provided. Children are very familiar with the routines of the club, including those introduced to help keep children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children independently sanitise their hand on arrival. They understand they need to remain within their year groups while playing and eating in the school hall.

Children eagerly anticipate the opportunity to access the appealing and exceptionally spacious outdoor play area. Children behave well and display a good level of independence. While playing outdoors, older children are positive role models who show care and concern for younger pupils. They offer encouragement and praise to the youngest children as they strive to learn new skills, such as skipping.

Children are very well supported by staff, who take time to sit and listen and to play games with them. Children confidently share details of their time in school and talk about their plans for the evening. Snack time is unhurried and highly valued as an opportunity to build relationships and extends children's communication & language skills. Staff sit alongside children as they eat and expertly model conversational skills. Staff are very mindful of newer or quieter members of the group. They skilfully encourage all children to join in with social interactions. Staff use what they know about the children to spark their interest, for example talking about trips and experiences, both within school and during their time at home.

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

- The established staff team work well together. They are positive role models, who speak respectfully to children and to one another. Children are learning the importance of socially acceptable behaviour. They are polite, sociable and understand they need to listen and take turns.
- Relationships are strong, parents and children have established a high level of trust in the caring and committed staff team. Parents are encouraged to share all relevant information before their child starts attending. This, alongside the time staff spend getting to know each child, helps to ensure staff know the children very well.
- Key staff, who also work within the host school, provide a vital link, which supports a seamless transition as children move between the school and the club. Information from school staff about planned learning in school is used to enhance activities within the club.
- Children benefit from a wide range of interesting activities. They make

meaningful choices about how and where they spend their time. Children confidently seek out the inspector, to share details of what they like best about coming to the after-school club. They talk about how much they like being able to play outside and having time to play with their friends. Children also comment on how much they enjoy their snack time and the craft activities they take part in.

- Children are learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They have excellent opportunities to be physically active. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices about what they eat and are encouraged by staff to stay well hydrated. Outdoors, children independently access hoops, balls, skipping ropes and chinks. They play with imagination, using large construction materials to make a boat. They use large chinks to draw lanes for running and design their own hopscotch.
- Staff benefit from ongoing coaching and support. The manager recognises the pressures placed on the staff. She values the staff team and is proud of the support they offer to one another. Supported by her staff team, the manager continually reflects on the quality of the provision. They are ever mindful of any impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and consider what they can do to help reduce any impact on both staff and children. For example, by placing a strong focus on supporting children's emotional well-being and providing greater opportunities for social interaction.
- Children who attend during school holidays enjoy a range of specially selected activities and events, which complements their time at the club.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager continually assesses staff knowledge and understanding, to ensure all staff are alert to possible indicators of abuse. Staff are confident in their ability to recognise and take appropriate action to help protect a child from possible harm. This includes in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. Children's safety is assured through rigorous risk assessments and daily checks. The premises are secure, and children are well supervised by staff at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2503992
Local authority	Salford
Inspection number	10194628
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	3 to 11
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	125
Name of registered person	Little Acorns Before & After School Club Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2503991
Telephone number	07528 393442
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Acorns Before & After School Club registered in 2018. The club operates Monday to Friday, from 7.45am to 8.55am and 3.30pm to 5.45pm during term time only. Holiday care is provided during some school holidays from 8am to 4pm. There are nine members of staff, three of whom hold an appropriate qualification at level 2 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Vickie Halliwell

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 their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector observed the activities provided both indoors and outside and assessed the impact this had on children's enjoyment and their development.
- Children spoke to the inspector about their time at the club. The inspector also spoke to staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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