

Inspection of Valley Hill Forest Nursery And Kids Club

St. John Fisher Rc Primary School, Burney Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 2DY

Inspection date: 4 May 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 are welcomed with smiles and warmth by the staff. The staff understand the needs of the children as they transition from a busy day at school to the provision. Children unwind as they gather to play a yoga game with staff. They laugh and giggle as they move their bodies into different yoga positions. Children talk to staff about their day as they eat a healthy snack. Children feel secure and safe in the setting.

Children are highly motivated and eager to join in with the wide range of activities, which are both adult and child led. For example, exciting sensory activities with coloured slime entice children as they squish it in their hands and fill bottles with it. Children form strong friendships as they enjoy each other's company. They play their favourite game of table football in pairs. Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the provision.

Staff provide plenty of praise and encouragement to children, which helps raise children's self-esteem and confidence. As a result children behave well. They share resources together and demonstrate respect and care for each other and their environment around them. For example, children help clear away the toys at the end of the session.

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

- The manager has a good oversight of her staff. She ensures that all staff attend training and understand their roles and responsibilities. After enhancing her own knowledge with further training, she shares this with staff. This enables them to tailor their practice to suit the specific needs of the children. Regular supervision with staff allows them to discuss any concerns they have. Emerging issues are addressed and dealt with quickly. This helps promote the children's safety and well-being. Staff speak highly of the manager, noting they feel valued and confirming that their well-being is looked after.
- Staff have high expectations for the children's behaviour and conduct. They are excellent role models through their own behaviour. Staff work hard to support children to reflect and manage their feelings by regularly talking to them. Children have space to talk about their day when they first arrive, which helps them settle. As a result, children's behaviour and conduct is very positive.
- Children are given excellent opportunities to be physically active. They enjoy taking part in obstacle races that staff set out for them. They balance bean bags on their heads and use stilts to walk. They climb on large wooden climbing frames and have access to a mini outdoor gym. Children are given a healthy diet. Discussion is held with the children around healthy food choices to develop

their understanding of what is healthy and what is not.

- Leaders and staff work hard to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. In particular, supporting children to understand their emotions. They have good relationships with the children's teachers and other professionals. This enables them to share strategies to support the child. As a result, children are well supported and make good progress in the provision.
- The manager ensures that staff and children take a lead in planning and choosing the activities that are offered in the provision. Staff work closely with the children to establish their interests and ideas. For example, children created a spa day, making bath bombs and lip gloss. 'Crazy' science activities are planned in the future. This enables both children and staff to feel empowered about their provision. Children have choices in their play and their contributions are valued.
- The manager shows dedication to continually reviewing and improving the provision and the resources. Recent funding received has been used for structural improvements and additional resources. As a result, staff can offer a high-quality service to the children that access it.
- Parents report that they are very happy with the club. Parents say that their children are happy and settled and have made good friendships with other children. They comment on the high energy of staff, which provides encouragement to their children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff show a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. This includes broader safeguarding matters, such as keeping children safe on the internet. Leaders and management have clear expectations of staff. This is followed up with regular training to ensure staff are fully aware of any risks and what action to take. There are comprehensive policies detailing information for staff to access as and when required. There are robust recruitment processes in place to manage safe recruitment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY563260
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10194345
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	30
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Valley Hill Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP557897
Telephone number	020 3730 8538
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Valley Hill Forest Nursery And Kids Club is an after-school provision based in St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Loughton, Essex. It operates term time only from 3.15pm to 6pm. There are four members of staff, including the manager who holds a level 7 qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emily Woodhead

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 manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the club.
- The inspector undertook a learning walk around the club with the manager. She held regular discussions with the manager and the staff.
- The inspector observed the children and staff.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents during the inspection and took account of parents' written views of the club.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation. This included evidence of staff suitability, attendance records, risk assessments, policies, and procedures.

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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