

Inspection of Energy Kidz at Ascot Road

Ascot Road Community Free School, Ascot Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD18 8AD

Inspection date:

16 June 2022

**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

Children's welfare is compromised because checks to verify the full suitability of all staff are not in place.

Children receive a warm welcome as they arrive at the club. Key persons help younger children to settle in. They share their own knowledge about children's interests with them. This encourages children to talk about their favourite characters from a card game. Children are creative. They enjoy the freedom to draw what they would like, using different types of pens and pencils. Children use good manners and show respect for their friends' achievements. They are careful not to wobble the table so they do not disturb the tower of blocks they have built.

Children benefit from opportunities to be physically active, indoors and outdoors. They demonstrate good control and coordination as they take part in ball games. Children learn to assess their own risks by balancing and hanging on the climbing equipment. They follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands prior to meals. Children remember to ask a member of staff when they would like to go to the toilet, to support their safety and security. They say that they like to attend the club so they can socialise with their friends and make new friendships. Children feel confident to talk to staff should they ever feel worried.

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

- The arrangements for the recruitment of staff are not robust. For example, the provider has not obtained references for all staff to verify their overall suitability. In addition, all staff do not receive induction training to ensure they fully understand how to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. This does not ensure the safety and welfare of children. Despite this, the provider has obtained a Disclosure and Barring Service check for all staff.
- There is not an embedded system in place to support staff to continue to develop their skills and knowledge. The provider ensures there are opportunities for staff to access training. Some staff are very keen learners and source training independently to specifically support the individual needs of children. However, since the registration of the club, supervision meetings are infrequent, and some do not identify the individual training needs of staff.
- The club provides a different environment in contrast to children's day at school. Staff ensure that children can socialise and relax with their friends. For example, the cosy area enables children to have some quiet time and explore the sensory bottles made by staff. Children have opportunities to engage in activities that generally reflect their interests. However, the range of activities for children to choose from is limited and not consistently inviting.

- Children's physical health is well supported. Staff encourage children to keep hydrated, especially on warm days. Children make independent choices of what they would like in their sandwich. They help themselves to a selection of healthy fruit and vegetables to complement their meal. Children are inquisitive. They confidently ask visitors how much water is contained in the food that they eat, and engage in meaningful discussions with them. Children are polite and know to clear away their plate when they have finished.
- Children behave well. At whole-group time they know to put up their hand and wait for their turn to speak. They take turns to share the club rules with the group. This is particularly helpful for children who are new to the club. This demonstrates that children have an understanding of the club's expectations.
- Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities effectively to enjoy their time at the club. They work in close partnerships with parents to meet children's individual needs. The club staff are just beginning to work with staff at the host school to have a better understanding of specific strategies that are used by children's teachers, to provide a consistent approach.
- Parents and children speak positively about their experiences at the club. They comment that staff make them feel welcome and how their children love to attend.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Staff whose full suitability has not been checked are left unsupervised with children on occasion, which compromises children's safety. However, the provider makes sure that staff access relevant training to keep their knowledge of safeguarding up to date. Staff know the signs that may cause them to be concerned about a child. They know their responsibility to report any concerns immediately to the safeguarding lead or relevant service. There are robust procedures in place for children to be collected only by authorised individuals.

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
implement robust recruitment procedures to verify the suitability of all staff	30/06/2022
ensure all staff receive induction training to help them to understand their roles and responsibilities	30/06/2022

implement an effective system for the supervision of staff to ensure they receive appropriate support, coaching and professional development opportunities.	30/06/2022
---	------------

Setting details

Unique reference number	2566747
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10239368
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 11
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	150
Name of registered person	Sherpa Kids England Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2539940
Telephone number	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Energy Kidz at Ascot Road registered in 2000. The club employs three members of staff, all of whom hold an appropriate qualification at level 2. The club opens from 7.30am until 9am, and from 3.15pm until 6pm, Monday to Friday, during school term time. Holiday camp runs most school holiday periods from 8.30am until 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lorraine Pike

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 observed activities and the interaction between staff and children. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the compliance coordinator and trainee compliance coordinator to talk about how the club is run and to check that all legal requirements are met.
- The activity leader and the inspector completed a tour of the areas used by the club together. They discussed the current arrangements for assessing risks, security, child supervision and how activities are planned to take account of children's interests and abilities.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and their written feedback.

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