

Inspection of Clowning Around Ltd

Ravenswood Youth Club, Ravenswood Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE6 5TU

Inspection date:

30 June 2022

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

**This
inspection**

Not met (with actions)

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

Despite weaknesses in safeguarding practice, children enjoy attending this before- and after-school club. They can choose from an extensive variety of activities inside. Older children rotate around the different rooms each week. This means that they can access a wider range of resources, such as games consoles and basketball hoops. Children also benefit from being able to access the neighbouring school's extensive outdoor space. This includes a range of climbing apparatus and sports facilities. Younger children thoroughly enjoy moving bikes and tricycles around the playground. They also practise their skills in gymnastics on mats, that the staff take outside.

Children behave extremely well. They are polite and helpful. For example, they quickly help staff to gather up equipment outside when it suddenly starts to rain. Staff know the children and their families extremely well. There is a lovely atmosphere in the club as children and staff talk together, while they eat their snack. Children who are feeling tired after school or fall over in the playground, are well cared for and comforted. This helps children to feel secure, promoting their well-being.

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

- The daily operation of the club is very effective. Staff are used effectively to make sure children are appropriately supervised. Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate with each other, as the premises and outdoor space available are so large. Younger children wear high-visibility vests when outside. This helps staff to make sure these children can be identified easily. There is an extensive range of policies and procedures to support the smooth running of the club and children's safety. However, managers and staff have failed to follow these processes in a timely manner. This has resulted in delays in making changes to how some services are provided. This has compromised children's safety.
- Children are collected from outside their classrooms at the end of the school day. Accurate registers help ensure that staff know who is attending the club each day. Club staff exchange relevant information with the teacher, if appropriate. This is then passed on to parents when they collect children from the club. Children chat to the staff about their school day as they walk the short distance to the club building.
- Children know the routine to follow on arrival. They hang up their own coats and bags, and wash their hands, before joining their friends to play. Younger children concentrate as they make colourful collages. Staff provide appropriate support to help children to use scissors to cut different materials carefully. Older children relax on the sofas to talk about their school day with their friends. Some

prefer to watch television before they go outside to run around.

- Children enjoy the snacks provided. They say that they sometimes have fresh fruit and vegetables. However, on the day of inspection, children were offered mainly sugary choices. Children say they are not asked about the type of food they would like to have at the club. They also reported they do not remember being asked their views on the types of activities available. Children told the inspector they would like to be consulted more often about the running of the club.
- Parents are delighted with the service provided by the club staff. They appreciate the care the staff provide because they know all the children so well. Parents tell the inspector how much their children enjoy attending because there is so much for them to do. They welcome the fact that staff regularly buy new equipment, so that children do not get bored.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Managers have all undertaken recent training to help them to understand their responsibilities as designated safeguarding leaders. Staff also attend appropriate training. All staff have a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms that might suggest a child is being abused. They can also describe the process to follow should they need to report a concern. However, managers and staff do not consistently follow the provision's policies and procedures in relation to keeping children safe. There are weaknesses in practice in relation to the reporting of incidents. Furthermore, delays in carrying out internal investigations have compromised the safety of children.

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
ensure all staff, including managers, act in a timely manner to report and investigate significant incidents to minimise risks to children	29/07/2022
ensure all staff attend appropriate safeguarding training and are fully aware of the policies and procedures of the provision in relation to keeping children safe.	29/07/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY453151
Local authority	Newcastle upon Tyne
Inspection number	10245436
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	90
Number of children on roll	149
Name of registered person	Clowning Around Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP524882
Telephone number	07903718362
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Clowning Around Ltd registered in 2014. The setting employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with qualified teacher status. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am and from 3.15pm until 5.45pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jan Batchelor

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 viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- Children told the inspector about what they like to do when they are at the club.
- The inspector spoke with the manager and the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the provision.
- Parents shared their views of the provision with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision.

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