

# Inspection of Conkers Club

Bushmead Primary School, Bushmead Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 7EU

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Inspection date:

6 July 2022

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

**This  
inspection**

**Not met (with actions)**

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Previous  
inspection

Not applicable

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **This provision does not meet requirements**

There are significant breaches in the requirements relating to child protection, and the deployment of staff is not always effective. Additionally, a member of staff with a current paediatric first-aid qualification is not present at every club session. Therefore, children's well-being is compromised in the event of a medical emergency.

Nevertheless, children enjoy their time at the club. They are welcomed by the staff on their arrival and demonstrate that they are settled. Children enjoy the company of their friends and participate in an appropriate range of activities. Younger children enjoy creative art activities. For example, they use foam printers and different coloured paints to create pictures and make scarecrows using stickers. Children develop their hand-to-eye and coordination skills as they carefully thread beads to make necklaces. They use their imaginations as they pretend to prepare food and cups of tea at the pretend play kitchen.

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

- The registered provider demonstrates poor practice. She has failed to display her certificate of registration, and does not consistently ensure the requirement relating to paediatric first aid is met. Weaknesses in child protection procedures also mean that children's well-being is compromised. The majority of the staff team are not sufficiently trained to understand the club's safeguarding policies and procedures. Furthermore, on the day of the inspection, staff did not follow their procedure in relation to the use of mobile phones and cameras for parents and visitors, to help keep children safe. The registered provider has also allowed the supervisor to use her own personal mobile phone, without a discussion regarding its safe use, because the club mobile phone is currently broken.
- Staff deployment does not always ensure the children's ongoing safety. Staff fail to consistently ensure that the gate leading from the outdoor area to the school car park is effectively monitored during busy collection times.
- Children are provided with healthy, balanced and nutritious snacks during their time at the club. Staff obtain information regarding any special requirements, preferences and food allergies and ensure they adhere to this.
- Staff provide opportunities for the children to be physically active in the fresh air after a busy day at school. Children perform cartwheels and enthusiastically kick the footballs to one another. They develop their coordination and racquet skills as they play tennis against the wall in the outdoor area.
- Parents comment positively about the club and, when asked, children are happy to talk about what they like to do when they come to the club. An appropriate range of information is obtained from parents at the start of the placement.

Management and staff form appropriate relationships with staff at the school. This helps to ensure that children's care is tailored to their individual needs.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider and staff demonstrate a weak knowledge of child protection and do not understand how to correctly implement their safeguarding policies and procedures. Staff are able to recognise potential indicators of abuse and neglect. However, they are unclear of what action to take when there are potential safeguarding concerns about a child. This includes what action to take if an allegation is made against a member of staff. Additionally, the designated safeguarding lead has not completed required child protection training. All staff are subject to appropriate checks to ensure they are suitable to work with 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 the certificate of registration is displayed	08/07/2022
ensure that the designated safeguarding lead and all staff understand and can implement the safeguarding policy and procedures in order to safeguard children	31/08/2022
ensure the designated safeguarding lead understands their responsibilities and has completed child protection training	31/08/2022
ensure mobile telephone procedures are implemented effectively in accordance with policy and procedures	31/08/2022
ensure staff are deployed effectively to ensure the safety of the children	08/07/2022
make sure one member of staff with a paediatric first-aid certificate is present on the premises at all times.	08/07/2022

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	2544434
<b>Local authority</b>	Luton
<b>Inspection number</b>	10233430
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Out-of-school day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	4 to 11
<b>Total number of places</b>	45
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	65
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Walcuch, Louise
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	2544433
<b>Telephone number</b>	07377657459
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Conkers Club registered in 2019 and operates from Bushmead Primary School in Luton. The club employs four members of childcare staff. The club opens from 3.30pm to 6pm during during school term time.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Ann Austen

## 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 took a tour of the club with the provider. They talked about how the club is organised and discussed the play opportunities they provide for the children.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with the children during indoor and outdoor activities.
- The provider, staff and children engaged in discussions with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- A sample of the documents was reviewed by the inspector. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.
- Parents shared their views about the club at the inspection.

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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