

Inspection of Pied Piper The Mead

The Mead School, 16 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5SN

Inspection date: 26 July 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 happy and settled in the fun, safe and stimulating summer club. Every morning children start the day with fun warm-up exercises and games to help them settle. They are soon giggling and laughing as they quickly find their heads and feet in an adapted version of a 'Simon Says' game. Children enthusiastically dance to music and play circle games to start the energetic and exciting day ahead.

Children quickly build bonds with the fun-loving staff and with one another. They listen carefully to important instructions and their behaviour is excellent. Children willingly share resources and respect one another's needs. For example, when they wait their turn during team games or work together to create artwork. Every child is welcomed and included into activities which are tailored to meet their age and stage of development.

Children demonstrate motivation and perseverance during physical activities, such as when they try to balance a bean bag on their heads. They support one another's attempts and successes, such as when they congratulate the winners of the relay races. Transition times between one activity and another are well organised and are part of the fun and games. For instance, children walk in for lunch singing and pretending to be giraffes as part of their jungle-themed focus for the day.

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

- The leadership team is truly inspirational. They continually look at ways to create and maintain the best environment and activities for all children. They ensure all staff are trained to the highest level and have devised a set of principles to help staff embrace their ethos and vision. For instance, staff learn how to reflect on their planned programme of activities and ensure they are fully accessible for all children, such as by adding more challenge or providing individual tasks for children who are less confident.
- Leaders and staff work very closely with parents so that precise and well-thought-out activities are prepared in advance of children arriving. This ensures all children receive an exciting and enjoyable range of events and experiences. They share ideas and policies with parents so that children can get the best out of their time in the summer club. For example, they provide ideas for healthy packed lunches so that children have the energy to join in and have fun. The leadership team actively invites parents to share their views and comments to help them build on children's skills and enjoyment.
- Staff are extremely enthusiastic and appear to have just as much fun as the children during the day. The depth of commitment they show to the children in their care is excellent. Staff comment on how much they love the work they do.

They are encouraged to share their talents and skills to inspire and motivate children.

- Staff place a strong emphasis on supporting children's independence skills, self-esteem and confidence. Children are placed in groups with others of a similar age which helps to create a sense of belonging. Younger children have the security of a 'base' room for quiet play and art activities. This helps children feel safe to explore and make new friendships.
- Staff encourage children to 'shine'. They give children time to understand instructions and they listen to and value their opinions. Children are excited to show staff what they can achieve, such as sharing the pictures they have drawn of jungle animals or climbing high on the playground equipment. Staff offer children positive and specific praise to encourage and support their developing skills and personalities. At the end of the week, children take part in a show for their parents.
- Older children talk and share memories of previous summers together and how they look forward to spending time in the summer club. Younger children are relaxed and fully engaged in listening to stories, playing games and singing. Their enjoyment is evident, and the sound of laughter and playful chatter is a constant reminder of the good time they are having.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have an excellent understanding and knowledge of how to protect children. They know the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. They know how to record and report their concerns in a timely and appropriate manner. There is a robust recruitment, induction and supervision process in place to ensure all staff working with children are suitable to do so. Staff know how to respond to other safeguarding concerns, such as the protocols for whistle-blowing. There are risk assessments in place to ensure all children are kept safe. Staff create a culture where children know they will be listened to and respected.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2531855
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10208485
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	4 to 12
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	104
Name of registered person	Pied Piper Activities Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP519657
Telephone number	07949410210
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Pied Piper The Mead registered in 2019 and is in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It is one of a group of holiday clubs owned by Pied Piper Activities Limited. It provides holiday provision for children during the summer and is open from 8.30am to 5.45pm, Monday to Friday. There are 12 staff working in the setting, of whom two are qualified teachers.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Martin

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 director and early years foundation stage lead showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure it is safe and suitable.
- The inspector spoke with the directors about the leadership and management of the summer club.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection and took their views into account.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the summer club.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and the children.

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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