

# Inspection of Fit for Sport @ Boundary Oak

Boundary Oak School, Roche Court, Wickham Road, Fareham PO17 5BL

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Inspection date:

17 August 2022

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

**This inspection**

**Not met (enforcement)**

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Previous inspection

Not applicable

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

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

Although most children enjoy themselves and have fun, their safety and well-being is compromised. At times, there are insufficient staff to supervise children adequately. This includes times when children eat and during higher risk activities, such as active games in the woods. In addition, staff are often not consistently deployed among the children to meet their needs and keep them safe. Sometimes, children were observed not being directly supervised by staff for short periods of time. This puts children at potential risk of harm.

On occasion, children's emotional well-being is inconsistently supported. This is partly because there are not enough staff to support young children's needs. Some staff recognise children's needs, such as when they play alone. They encourage children to join in with others of a similar age. This helps to promote friendships between children. However, at other times, not all staff are quick to recognise when children start to become upset, to offer them timely support.

On the day of the inspection, children spent long periods of time in free play. Most children engaged well, such as playing in small groups with games and construction. However, staff interactions with children were limited. As a result, children were mainly left to entertain themselves. During structured activities, children receive positive encouragement and praise from staff. However, some children do not maintain their interest in free-play and structured activities well. This led to some children's behaviour deteriorating.

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

- There are a number of breaches of requirements for the early years foundation stage and both parts of the Childcare Register. The provider has failed to ensure there are sufficient staff on the premises to support children's safety and well-being. At times, children are not closely supervised, including with visitors. There are also times when children are left unsupervised for short periods of time. This means children's safety and well-being is not assured.
- The provider has failed to identify weaknesses, some of which have been highlighted by staff working on site to the senior leadership staff. This has led to poor morale, which has impacted on staff's well-being. In addition, there is no deputy manager to support the site manager in operating the setting in a safe and efficient way. However, staff speak positively about the support the site manager provides to them.
- At times, the staff who are present do not deploy themselves effectively to support and meet children's needs. They also struggle to give children the time and attention they need, such as those needing emotional support. This is partly

because there are high numbers of children attending, which means that staff are unable to spend prolonged time with individuals. However, staff are not always quick to recognise when some children show signs of becoming upset. Staff interactions with children vary in quality. These are particularly poor during children's free play.

- Risk assessments have been updated after a number of more serious accidents and injuries to children. Despite this, these are sometimes not implemented effectively by staff to help minimise injuries and hazards to children. This includes when children eat and during the use of some facilities on the site, such as the woods. For example, children eating their snack and lunch in a variety of places across a large area. Some children wandered around while eating. As a result, the small number of staff present were unable to supervise all the children adequately, to promote their safety during this time.
- Children show they understand some routines, such as helping to tidy up. Their behaviour sometimes deteriorates when there are changes to the routine. For example, transitions to other parts of the premises take time due to organising the large group of children. Children become bored and restless. Staff sometimes do not notice or respond to potential risky behaviours of some children. For example, some children were seen chasing each other up and down a small flight of stairs. This means children do not receive consistent guidance from staff. This does not support children's understanding of recognising risks and appropriate behaviours, to help keep them safe.
- Children enjoy some of the activities. They make choices from a variety of toys and resources during their free play. This includes drawing and colouring, and small-world toys. These support children's creativity and imagination. During structured activities, staff positively interact with children. They show children how to complete the activities and then offer enthusiastic comments to encourage them to take part and try their best. The active games promote children's good health and encourage them to be energetic.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Weaknesses put children at risk and compromise their safety and well-being. Staff have an appropriate awareness of child protection indicators to help them identify possible concerns about children or other staff. They know how to escalate concerns within the company, such as reporting these to the designated safeguarding leads. However, they lack a secure understanding of external procedures should they need to directly refer any concerns to outside agencies. Staff complete risk assessments. These are reviewed and updated, including after accidents. However, staff do not always implement risk assessments effectively, to help minimise potential dangers, accidents and injuries to children.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

**The provision is not meeting requirements and Ofsted intends to take**

**enforcement action.**

**We intend to take steps to suspend registration and will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:**

	<b>Due date</b>
ensure there are sufficient staff present to meet the needs of all children, to keep them safe and to support their well-being and individual needs	31/08/2022
deploy staff effectively to ensure children are appropriately supervised, including during higher risk activities and when they are eating	31/08/2022
ensure all staff understand and know the referral processes to external agencies, in the event that they need to refer concerns about children or staff	31/08/2022
implement effective risk assessments to identify potential hazards and dangers to children and ensure that staff implement these consistently to help keep children safe	31/08/2022
implement appropriate behaviour management strategies that enable children to understand the rules and boundaries within the setting to keep themselves and others safe	31/08/2022
ensure that there is a named deputy who is capable of taking charge in the absence of the site manager.	31/08/2022

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	2598251
<b>Local authority</b>	Hampshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	10249755
<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 12
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	112
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Fit For Sport Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP901369
<b>Telephone number</b>	07753 464485
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Fit for Sport @ Boundary Oak registered in 2020. It is located at Boundary Oak School near Fareham, Hampshire and offers holiday care for children from the age of four to 12 years. It is operated by a limited company which has a number of similar settings. The setting is open most school holidays, Monday to Friday between 8am and 5.30pm. Some staff employed to work with the children have relevant qualifications, such as qualified teacher status and others are unqualified.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Sheena Bankier

## 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.
- Children told the inspector about what they like to do when they are at the setting.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children, along with the routines and the range of activities on offer.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of staff's suitability checks, accident and incident records and written risk assessments.
- Leadership and management discussions took place with the site manager, and other staff were spoken to at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector viewed the main parts of the premises used by children on the day of the inspection and discussed the safety and suitability of these.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.

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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