

Inspection of Rascals After School Club

Lashmar Road, East Preston, LITTLEHAMPTON, West Sussex BN16 1ES

Inspection date:

30 September 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

Children's safety and well-being are compromised. Staff do not have a good understanding of safeguarding and are not aware of the procedures to follow if a child is at risk of harm. Nonetheless, children come out of school excited to be attending the after-school club. They enthusiastically walk back to the setting and are eager to see what activities are available. Children particularly enjoy using different craft materials. They use their imaginations and creative skills to make puppets. Children enjoy playing alongside the familiar adults. For example, they play card games and chess.

Children behave very well. They are kind and cooperative. Staff and children are respectful to each other. This creates a positive environment. Children of different ages sit together to watch a film in the cosy television room. They giggle and chat happily as they take time to unwind after school. Children say that they like doing their homework at the after-school club because they get to work with their friends to complete it. Children access the outdoor space to play large-group games. For instance, they run around outside with excitement while playing football, supported by the staff.

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

- Safeguarding practice is weak, which compromises children's welfare. For example, some staff are not aware of safeguarding issues such as female genital mutilation and radicalisation. They do not know the local safeguarding partnership procedures to escalate a concern about a child. The manager has not put steps in place to assure herself that staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding matters.
- Ongoing support for staff is ineffective. They do not receive regular supervision meetings to help them fulfil their role. This means that staff do not receive the coaching needed to improve their personal effectiveness. The manager does not ensure that newer staff have a full and robust induction. This leads to staff lacking the knowledge that they need, particularly in relation to safeguarding.
- Parents speak positively about the care that their children receive. They say that their children enjoy attending the club. The manager spends time getting to know families when they join and asks parents to complete 'All about me forms' to find out more about the children. She has established good partnerships with the local primary schools.
- Staff interact sensitively with children. For example, they notice when children need support in finding something to do and encourage them to join in with their games. Staff change activities throughout the session to keep children engaged and focused. Children are polite and follow instructions well, such as

washing their hands before mealtimes. The manager allocates each child a key person who provides additional support to them when needed.

- The manager meets with the staff team regularly to reflect on what is working well and what needs improving within the setting. She considers the views and wishes of the children when making changes and planning activities. For example, when children ask to do baking, she incorporates this into the sessions. However, the manager has not yet identified professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their practice further.
- Children form close friendships during their time at the club. They work together during games to collaborate and share their ideas. For instance, when playing with play dough they choose a child to be the 'head chef' who teaches the others how to make pizzas. Children remain at activities for an extended period.
- Children have access to a wide range of activities. For example, they can play snooker, chess and computer games or use the small-world toys. They freely choose what they would like to do, which helps them to feel independent. Children are offered a healthy snack, provided by the club, and enjoy sitting with their friends to eat. Staff ensure children have constant access to water and can independently access their belongings in the cloakroom.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Overall, children's safety and well-being are not assured, as staff do not have a full understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children from potential harm. In addition, they do not know the procedures to follow to raise a concern about a member of staff. However, staff do ensure that they deploy themselves well and that children are adequately supervised. When collecting the children from school, staff complete a headcount to ensure they have the correct number of children. Staff are diligent at monitoring the door to ensure that children are collected safely.

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 the designated lead person for safeguarding, understand the safeguarding policy and procedures and have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, including responding to allegations against members of staff	28/10/2022

ensure that all staff receive appropriate induction training to help them to fully understand their roles and responsibilities	04/11/2022
implement effective systems for staff supervision and professional development, to monitor practice and help staff continually improve their knowledge and skills.	11/11/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY304994
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10228394
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	60
Number of children on roll	468
Name of registered person	Jackson, Emma Susan
Registered person unique reference number	RP908144
Telephone number	01903 772000
Date of previous inspection	5 December 2016

Information about this early years setting

Rascals After School Club registered in 2005. It operates in East Preston, West Sussex. It is open from 7.30am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm each weekday, during term time. During school holidays and on school in-service training days the club operates between 8am and 6pm. The provider employs 10 members of staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jade Orosz

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.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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