

Inspection of Locking Stumps Lynx Club

Locking Stumps Community Primary School, Glover Road, Birchwood, Warrington
WA3 7PH

Inspection date:

7 February 2023

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children clearly enjoy attending this vibrant and friendly club. They excitedly arrive after their busy school day and are keen to chat to staff and their friends. Staff warmly greet children and check on their well-being. Children are encouraged to talk about how they are feeling through the club's special 'link bear' and daily discussions. This helps children to feel settled, safe and secure. Children have a real sense of ownership at the club. They contribute to the planning of activities and are able to choose where they wish to play and what resources they would like to use. This contributes successfully to children's self-esteem and sense of belonging.

Children behave exceptionally well. They have created their own 'golden rules' that include being kind to one another, showing good sportsmanship and being respectful. Children play harmoniously together and older children demonstrate kindness, concern and patience with their younger friends. Children are aware of routines and what is expected of them. They are assigned special tasks to assist staff and relish this responsibility. Staff continuously praise children and encourage children to choose a 'special prize' in recognition for their efforts, kindness and achievements.

Children coped well during the COVID-19 pandemic, playing in their allocated bubbles. Now children, especially those younger, are developing their confidence in social situations and larger groups. Staff gently encourage children and promote independence at every opportunity. For example, children skilfully manage their self-care skills, sanitise their hands before and after eating and tidy away their plates and cups when they have finished.

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

- Staff know the children extremely well and have developed warm and trusting relationships with them. They liaise with school staff and gather pertinent information from parents when children first begin attending the club. This helps children to settle well and ensures that activities match their interests and what they like to do. In turn, this has a very positive impact on children's behaviour, their enjoyment levels and their motivation. Children are happy, animated and enthusiastic to participate in all aspects of the club.
- Children enjoy being creative. They carefully create Valentine's Day cards and practise their writing skills as they write special messages. Children are able to express their thoughts and ideas through the sensitive direction and skilful questioning of staff.
- Children have many opportunities to develop their imaginative skills as they

create structures with small bricks. Children proudly share their creations with the inspector and talk confidently about what they have made and how they have achieved it. They concentrate well as they fit pieces together, solve problems and overcome challenges when building their structures. This demonstrates their resilience and determination.

- Staff encourage children to learn the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Children are able to play outside in the fresh air daily, where they enjoy competitive games such as football. During activities such as baking staff talk to children about sugar and the impact it can have on their teeth. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks and their dietary requirements and preferences are effortlessly catered for.
- Staff have developed effective partnerships with the host school. They attend staff training days and engage in regular dialogues with teaching staff to enable them to successfully support the children that attend. Furthermore, staff complement learning that is taking place in school. Some staff working within the club are also employed by the host school. This supports continuity of care and aids children's transitions into the club.
- Staff feel well supported and valued and there is a real team ethos apparent among staff. Staff enjoy participating in supervision meetings, where they receive detailed feedback regarding their practice and professional development. Furthermore, leaders observe staff and the quality of their interactions with children. This helps to ensure that children receive a high-quality provision and that their needs are met effectively.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are very complimentary about the club and comment on the friendliness of the staff team. They describe how their children enjoy attending and that the two-way flow of communication between the school and the club is extremely beneficial.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children. They attend regular training to ensure their knowledge remains up to date and discuss safeguarding issues during staff meetings. Staff understand the action to take if they have concerns about the welfare of a child and are aware of other agencies that play a key role in protecting children from harm. Staff confidently describe what they would do if they had concerns about a colleague's practice and how to escalate their concerns if needed. Staff are very vigilant. They deploy themselves effectively and ensure that children are always appropriately supervised.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360080
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	10264796
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	45
Number of children on roll	78
Name of registered person	Burke, Nicola Anne
Registered person unique reference number	RP513994
Telephone number	01925 819076
Date of previous inspection	27 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

Locking Stumps Lynx Club registered in 2007 and is privately owned. It operates from Locking Stumps Community Primary School in Birchwood, Warrington. It opens each weekday during term time from 7.15am to 8.35am and from 3.15pm to 6pm. The club also operates Monday to Friday during school holidays from 7.30am to 6pm, except during the Christmas holidays and the last two weeks in August. There are seven members of staff who regularly work within the club and of these, four hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Karen Cox

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and staff, and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- The manager showed the inspector around the premises, and talked about how the provision is organised and about the activities provided for children.
- The inspector and manager observed an activity together.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She also spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including the suitability of staff, qualifications and first-aid certificates.

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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