

Inspection of The Hangout

Passmores Academy, Tracys Road, Harlow CM18 6JH

Inspection date:

14 February 2023

**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 have fun at the club. They arrive happy, excited and eager to find out what activities are planned for the day. They make choices from a good variety of resources on offer. These include different types of construction toys, small-world play resources, computer games, craft, messy play activities and drawing materials. Staff support children at their chosen activities and supervise them closely. This helps to develop positive relationships between children and staff, and helps children to feel safe. Children are confident to approach adults to ask for help or share their ideas.

Staff involve the children fully in making choices and taking ownership of their behaviour. For example, children have positive discussions about their club rules. Staff ensure all children are included and give them time to think before responding. Children follow rules, listen to instructions, and take turns. Staff engage children in discussions and children talk confidently to each other. For example, younger children listen to older ones explaining their predictions when taking part in a science experiment.

Parents confirm how much their children love attending the club. They particularly mention how approachable and attentive the staff are, which gives them confidence in leaving their children.

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

- Staff support children to enjoy their time at the club and to have fun. Staff plan a wide range of activities to help children explore, experiment, solve problems and work independently and as a team. For example, they invited a wild bird professional to the club to show them and talk about birds. Staff built on children's learning by offering activities to extend their new knowledge. Children excitedly spoke about the 'Owl show' they performed to their friends.
- The management team provide effective support for staff to promote their well-being. Staff complete relevant training for their roles. All staff say they are able to approach the managers for support and benefit from team meetings. However, there is no clear and consistent system in place to monitor staff practice and ensure that their skills continue to develop over time.
- Staff ensure the environment is safe and secure. They provide good levels of supervision to keep children safe. Daily safety checks of the premises and equipment ensure that they are safe and fit for purpose.
- Children have strong relationships with the staff and each other. Staff clearly enjoy being with the children and children respond well. Staff introduce children who are new to the club, finding out more about their likes and families. They

prepare other children before new children arrive, so they can help to settle them in. Older children become a 'buddy' to newly arrived children. The managers are the key persons for early years children, this has recently been introduced. Parents said they are pleased that there is a key-person system in place.

- Staff consistently apply fair boundaries, so that children understand how to behave at the club. They use explanations and gentle reminders to help children manage their emotions and consider others. Children are kind to each other and celebrate personal achievements.
- Children have opportunities to be outdoors and active. They have additional physical resources for large and smaller group games, such as bats, balls and hoops. Staff help children to recognise the effect exercise has on their bodies and join in with their games. Children bring their own food and drinks, and staff provide additional drinking water. Staff are knowledgeable about individual children's needs and ensure that safe practices are in place to support children with allergies.
- Parents receive suitable information about the club. They receive information prior to their children attending, which includes information about healthy packed lunches and other policies and procedures. Information relating to the holiday activities are shared by social media. Daily handovers help exchange information about children's needs between staff and parents. Questionnaires are sent out to gather parents' and children's feedback about activities. For example, workshops are now offered, on a variety of topics, to give children enhanced learning experiences.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff have a suitable awareness of their responsibilities to safeguard children. Staff know where to find information and how to report concerns. They know the importance of reporting concerns to appropriate professionals, to protect children from harm. They understand the indicators that would raise their concerns about children's welfare and the behaviour of adults. This includes concerns that link to wider safeguarding issues. On a day-to-day basis, staff take steps to help keep children safe. For example, risk assessments are completed which cover the different areas of the premises and activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2617370
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10265350
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 10
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	100
Name of registered person	The Hangout Afterschoolclub Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2617368
Telephone number	07841749088
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Hangout registered in 2020. It is situated at Passmores Academy in Harlow, Essex. The club operates during school holidays only from 9am to 3pm. There are six members of staff, five of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications between levels 2 and 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Weston

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy while at the club.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with the leader about the leadership and management of the club.
- The manager and the inspector discussed the intentions of the club. They observed staff practice together, and discussed how well staff interact and promote children's play and enjoyment.

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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