

Inspection of Sporting Futures

Abbey Road Junior School, Abbey Road, Darlington, Durham DL3 8NN

Inspection date:

24 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 are offered a wide variety of sports and team games during the school holidays at their time at this club. Staff offer children activities that help to develop and challenge their physical skills, such as football, gymnastics, basketball, team games and competitions. Children are happy and enthusiastic to join in all the different activities on offer. Children laugh, smile and chat with each other during their time at this club. Staff deploy themselves effectively to make sure that children are kept safe. For example, they always supervise children when going to the toilet or moving from indoors to outdoors.

Children behave very well. They listen to staff and each other, and follow instructions well. During obstacle courses, they take turns, cooperate and negotiate with each other. Younger children show perseverance and try hard to throw beanbags into hoops. They show pride in their achievements, such as giggling and clapping when they achieve their goals. Children show high levels of respect for each other. They welcome other children into their ongoing games, sharing the rules of the game with each other. Staff encourage children to be independent. Children use the toilet and wash their hands themselves. They readily help to tidy up after activities.

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

- Children are settled and are keen to participate in team games. Staff group children into different age groups, so that activities are appropriate for children's individual needs. This helps children to be motivated and engaged to take part in the activities on offer.
- Staff adapt activities to make sure that all children can be included. For instance, they move hoops closer to younger children, so that they can achieve success when throwing beanbags. Staff plan games with a parachute, so that all children can take part and be equally involved.
- Staff interact with children well. They listen to children's views and respect what they say. Staff give children clear instructions, which they break down into smaller steps for younger children. They demonstrate activities for children to help them understand what is expected of them. This helps all children to be confident to take part.
- Younger children are all allocated a key person, who supports them well throughout the day. Staff make sure that they have comfort items from home and are near their siblings to help them to settle. However, staff do not consistently gain information about younger children's individual likes, dislikes and interests to help to strengthen their settling-in process.
- Staff work with parents to make sure that children bring healthy packed lunches.

They sit with children at lunchtimes, to help to promote a sociable dining experience. Staff offer children plenty of opportunities to have a drink and snacks throughout the day.

- Children are given opportunities to relax during the day. They enjoy watching a film after lunch, sitting with their friends and chatting about the characters and the plot. Staff make sure that they are deployed to sit nearby the younger children to offer them support, if necessary.
- Staff make sure that children are involved in decisions about the club, such as by voting on which film to watch. Older children comment that they enjoy the club, there is lots of choice of sports activities and that staff are kind.
- Parents are positive about the service the club provides. They value the flexible booking system. Parents comment that their children enjoy attending the club and choose to attend as they enjoy the huge variety of sports so much.
- Staff receive support from managers to fulfil their roles. They attend a daily meeting each morning to plan the session and discuss how they will meet all children's needs. Staff comment that managers provide feedback on their practice and they feel well supported by managers.
- Children are offered daily opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air. They play games on the large field, access the artificial-turf football pitch and exercise on outdoor play equipment.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse. They know who to contact if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Managers make sure that there is always a member of staff who has a first-aid qualification present. Staff understand the whistle-blowing procedures and know who to contact if there is an allegation made against a member of staff. Children play in a safe and secure environment. Staff check the premises and equipment each day to make sure that they are safe for children to use. They know that all mobile phones, including older children's, must be locked away. Staff know how to record any accidents or incidents and inform parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2579022
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	10250958
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 13
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	90
Name of registered person	Coates, Liam Derek
Registered person unique reference number	RP908733
Telephone number	01325 380748
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Sporting Futures registered in 2020. It is independently run and is located at Abbey Road Junior School, Darlington. The club operates during school holidays from 8.30am until 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for the Christmas holidays. There are currently nine members of staff employed to work at the club. Of these, three members of staff hold qualified teacher status, one member of staff holds a qualification at level 6 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 3. Four staff are unqualified. Some staff hold sports-based qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Melanie Vincent

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the club received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the acting manager and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the club.
- The acting manager showed the inspector around the areas of the school that the club use. She talked about the resources and activities provided for children.
- The inspector observed children playing and engaged in activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the acting manager. The inspector checked evidence of the staff's suitability and a range of other appropriate documentation, such as evidence of first-aid qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of children and parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.

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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