

Inspection of ChuckleBox Out of School Club

Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9AE

Inspection date:

21 March 2023

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Not met (with actions)

Previous inspection

Met

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision does not meet requirements

There are weaknesses in the leadership and management of the club. Leaders do not implement effective supervision and training to ensure that all staff have the skills and knowledge they need to ensure that they deal with certain situations or behaviours appropriately, or in a more positive way. In addition, the systems in place do not allow for easy accessibility of staff records and documents. Nevertheless, children enjoy spending time at the club. They say that they like the freedom of being able to choose what they would like to play with and the opportunity to use the large playground outside. Staff welcome children on arrival and engage with them by asking them questions about their school day. There are routines and expectations in place, and children follow these. For example, children know to wash their hands and sit at a table for snack. They then know where to put their cutlery before going off to play.

Children are given free time to play. During these times, they behave well and talk to each other and staff about their day. Children explore the activities on offer indoors and outdoors. They develop their physical skills, such as by playing ball games and using the climbing equipment in the playground. Children have positive attitudes at the club. Children form strong bonds with staff and enjoy spending time with them. Staff join children as they play and chat to them about their recent achievements at school.

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

- Leaders and staff supervise children well and ensure that they are safe. They make checks to make sure that children are provided with a safe and secure place to play. For example, staff tuck chairs under the tables to avoid children tripping and close the door if any unfamiliar adults are in the other rooms nearby.
- Children behave well and respond positively to each other. They are encouraged to help staff with daily tasks, such as putting toys away before getting others out. They enjoy selecting their own choice of activities from a large selection of resources that the club has on offer. Children spend their time playing with construction, games and completing craft activities with staff.
- Leaders and staff form strong partnerships with parents. They provide them with a termly newsletter and emails, and are in the process of setting up a social media page. Parents comment on how great the club is and feel that they are kept up to date with all relevant information from school. They say that their children love coming and often do not want to leave when picked up at the end of the day. Staff have links with the school and work hard to develop good working relationships with them.

- Staff say that they feel supported by the managers and that they can talk to them about any concerns or ideas they have. They have weekly staff meetings to discuss the needs of the club. The manager has good recruitment procedures in place and carries out the necessary checks to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. However, there is not a system in place to ensure that staff's records are readily available if needed.
- The manager holds termly supervision meetings with staff. She signposts staff to any new training that will support them with their own personal development. However, despite her efforts, some staff do not consistently demonstrate that they have the skills and knowledge they need to deal with certain situations or behaviours appropriately, or in a more positive way. This demonstrates how supervision and training is not effective enough to ensure that staff fully understand their role and have the skills they need to provide better support for all children, including when dealing with children with specific needs.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff complete annual safeguarding training. They know about the different types and signs of abuse. Staff know who to go to should they have concerns about a child's welfare. There are effective recruitment and induction procedures in place to ensure staff's suitability to work with children. Risk assessments are effective. For example, staff make sure that they supervise children more closely when other events, such as parents' evening, are happening on the school grounds. They make sure that there are always two adults supervising children at all times, indoors and outdoors. Staff have a fire evacuation plan in place and staff practise this with children.

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
put systems in place to make sure that staff's records are easily accessible	20/04/2023
develop training and supervision to support staff to undertake appropriate professional development opportunities to improve their personal effectiveness.	20/06/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	137381
Local authority	Bromley
Inspection number	10280647
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	65
Name of registered person	Joy Bassett and Andrew Bowes Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP523871
Telephone number	020 8777 0218
Date of previous inspection	5 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

ChuckleBox Out of School Club registered in 2001. The club is situated in West Wickham, in the London Borough of Bromley and offers out-of-school care. The club is open during term time, from 7.30am to 9am and 3.30pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. During school holidays, the club operates from 8am to 6pm. There are five staff employed to work with children, two of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Louisa Parker

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 staff and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the club.
- The inspector carried out a tour of the club with the manager. The inspector assessed the impact of the quality of staff's interactions and the play opportunities that they provide for children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- At convenient times during the inspection, the inspector spoke to the manager, children, parents and staff and considered their views.
- The inspector spoke with the manager about the leadership and management of the setting.

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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