

Inspection of Kids Company

Kimpton Primary School, High Street, Kimpton, Hitchin SG4 8RB

Inspection date:

7 August 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 happy and thoroughly enjoy their time at this after-school and holiday club. They immerse themselves in a range of exciting opportunities available to them. For example, children enjoy craft and cooking activities. They listen carefully to instructions to learn how to measure materials and ingredients to make their muffins and 'sock bunnies'. Children have good opportunities to be physically active. For example, outside, children strengthen their arm and leg muscles as they play on climbing frames and swing on monkey bars. Children can rest and relax while colouring and reading books and during yoga sessions.

Children's behaviour is positive. They form good friendships and enjoy each other's company. For example, children engage in imaginative play as they collaboratively discuss their roles and the storyline for their games. They express their ideas as they make 'wands' and 'broomsticks' from construction materials. Staff explain daily rules to children to keep themselves safe. As a result, children are confident to remind each other how to be safe when playing 'archery'. Younger children are welcomed by older children through 'buddy systems', to help integrate them and build their confidence. This creates a supportive atmosphere, where all children feel safe, and secure.

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

- The club's provider promotes an inclusive environment that allows all children to participate. Key persons help to ensure children's needs are cared for. Arrangements are made to ensure those who are disadvantaged are supported to access the club successfully, such as children who receive additional funding or children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Children are supported to develop healthy lifestyles at the club. This includes regular handwashing before mealtimes and cooking activities. During holiday clubs, children eat from their own packed lunches. During after-school club times, staff provide children with a healthy range of snacks, including fruit and vegetables. All staff have completed food hygiene training to keep children safe.
- Continuity of care between the host school and the club is effective. Staff escort children from their classrooms and have secure collection procedures when children go home. Effective communication methods ensure parents are kept up to date with relevant information about their children's time spent at the club.
- Staff's positive interactions with children help to develop confidence and resilience. As a result, children are excellent communicators, who keenly ask questions to learn new information. Children are friendly towards visitors, who they invite into their games. They are proud to show their model of a 'flying bank' they have made, to visitors.

- Children thoroughly enjoy their outdoor play on the school playground and field. They play large-group games that entice others to join in. For example, children begin to roll large tyres down slopes, which quickly becomes a race of speed. Children cheer each other on and laugh when their tyre falls. Other children work cooperatively to build large scale models with construction resources.
- Staff feel well supported by the provider and manager. They are offered good training opportunities to ensure their knowledge is current. They are pleased to take on new roles, such as planning and leading activities. They meet regularly to discuss the club's policies and procedures. This helps staff to feel confident in their responsibilities.
- Parents are positive about the club and the activities on offer for their children. They feel the staff are extremely helpful and accommodating. They say their child's time spent at this club has helped them to form and maintain friendships.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The club's provider ensures that staff's knowledge of child protection is current through regular training and team meetings. This helps staff to understand their role in keeping children safe. Staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. They are aware of the signs that a child might be at risk of abuse or harm. Robust recruitment processes ensure staff are suitable to care for children. Staff inductions and supervisions monitor their suitability to continue caring for children. Managers regularly review accident forms to help ensure children can play safely, inside and outside. All staff are paediatric first-aid trained.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2633579
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10281170
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	40
Number of children on roll	340
Name of registered person	Kids Company Hertfordshire Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2616774
Telephone number	07749 122883
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Kids Company registered in 2021. This is an out-of-school provision that operates for school-age children after school from 3.15pm until 6pm each day. It also operates during school holidays from 8am until 6pm. The setting employs six members of staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachael Small

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 club.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children. She looked at a range of documents, including first-aid certificates.
- The inspector observed activities inside and in the outside play spaces. She spoke to the provider, manager, staff, and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector observed the different activities and equipment available to children.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into consideration.

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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