

Inspection of NRG Associates UK Ltd (Trading as) Astbury Merecats Out of School Club

Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School, School Lane, Congleton, Cheshire East
CW12 4RG

Inspection date:

26 September 2023

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not Met (with actions)

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Since the last inspection, leaders and staff have worked hard to make improvements to the club. This ensures that the outcomes for children are continuously improving. Staff encourage children to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for the club. Children take pride in setting up the table for snack and tidying up after themselves. This encourages children to look after the club environment. Staff take every opportunity to talk to children. They share stories about different events in the school that children have taken part in, such as charity cake sales. Children recall these events and the purpose of these. This supports children's communication and language development.

Children have great fun in this club. They play together and work as a team. Some children use cardboard boxes and craft materials to make an imaginary 'world wrestling entertainment' ring for the different wrestling characters. Other children delight in stacking different coloured cups and knocking these over. Staff encourage all children to play outside during the session. Children use brushes and water to paint the fences and walls outside. This supports children to develop their physical skills, such as small and large movements in their arms and hands. Staff support children to continue to develop their mathematical skills they are learning in school. For example, while children play in the sand and water trays outside they practise filling and emptying different-sized containers. They also practise their mathematical language, such as 'heavy' and 'bigger'.

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

- Leaders and staff have created a warm and nurturing environment for children to enjoy before and after school. Older children take responsibility for finding out what other children's interests are. Staff plan activities and experiences for children, which ignite their curiosity and enhance their development. For example, children have great fun planting in the outdoor area. This supports children to learn about growing flowers and fruit.
- There is a secure key-person system in place. This supports new children to settle well. Staff support children to develop their emotional well-being. Children are encouraged to engage in meaningful interactions and back-and-forth conversations with other children and staff. Consequently, children display good levels of self-esteem and are developing their growing vocabulary.
- Staff provide children with nutritious snacks. Children have ample opportunity to play outdoors in the fresh air. They go on walks through the fields to a 'wishing stream', where they can share their own wishes. Children further develop their physical development by practising their balance and coordination skills on bicycles and tricycles. Staff encourage children to problem solve. For example,

children have set up drainpipes in the outdoor area for water play. Children experimented with how these needed to be attached to the fence to allow the water to flow.

- Children behave incredibly well. They are kind and considerate to their peers. Staff support children to learn how their behaviour impacts others. They are always close by to support children when they do get into conflicts. For example, while playing a game of table football. Staff guide children on how they can resolve the conflict themselves. This helps children to learn how to share and take turns.
- Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities well. Staff support children with their speech and language development through the use of signing, which they also teach the other children to use. This ensures that all children are making good progress in their development and that they are able to participate fully in the club experience.
- Parents speak highly of the club. They comment that their children enjoy attending and that the club is safe. Parents feel that their children have a good choice of activities in the club to engage them. They comment that staff are 'friendly, fantastic and approachable'.
- Leaders support staff through regular supervision meetings and team meetings. This ensures that any training needs are identified and the professional development of staff is tailored to ensure that they are able to meet children's individual needs. Staff comment that they feel supported by leaders. This ensures that staff are able to support children with their feelings. Children are encouraged to learn how to identify their emotions and express themselves in a healthy way.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the setting's safeguarding policy. They are aware of the potential signs and symptoms of abuse. Leaders and staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of how to correctly report concerns about the welfare of children to other professionals. Leaders and staff are aware of the reporting procedures should there be an allegation made against a member of staff. Leaders and staff are trained in paediatric first aid and know what to do in the case of an emergency. Staff carry out regular checks of the environment to ensure that it is safe for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433190
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10279302
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	3 to 11
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	228
Name of registered person	NRG Associates UK Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP530948
Telephone number	07748 699352
Date of previous inspection	26 October 2022

Information about this early years setting

NRG Associates UK Ltd (Trading as) Astbury Merecats Out of School Club registered in 2011. The club employs four members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with early years professional status. The club opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 8.55am and Monday to Thursday from 3.20pm to 6pm during term time. During the school holidays, the club opens from 7.30am to 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Suzanne Fenwick

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are 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.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.

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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