

Inspection of Willows

Christian Centre, Stortford Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4PE

Inspection date:

11 January 2024

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Met

Summary of key findings

This provision meets requirements

- The provider, who is also the manager, is well organised and has a clear vision for the club. She explains how she ensures that children experience a broad range of stimulating activities and have opportunities to relax and unwind in comfortable spaces, such as the book corner. The provider explains how they involve children in planning activities and that resources are easily accessible to allow children to lead their own play.
- Staff recognise the importance of getting to know children well and developing secure relationships with them, helping to support children's emotional well-being. The provider understands the importance of ensuring the key-person system is firmly embedded to provide support for early years children.
- The provider has a good understanding of how to promote children's health and well-being. The staff team provides children with a broad range of healthy snacks and a nutritious meal each evening. Effective systems are in place to support any allergies and dietary requirements, which helps to support children's safety and individual needs. Staff recognise the importance of promoting children's understanding of good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating.
- The provider recognises the importance of forming strong relationships with parents. She talks confidently about sharing information with parents regarding children's care and their experiences at the club. The provider gathers information from parents, children and staff to help her evaluate the provision and make improvements.
- Staff have established a good working relationship with staff at the nearby school and pre-school. They recognise the importance of regularly sharing information with them, helping to provide continuity in children's care.
- The provider explains how she ensures that children's safety is a high priority. Daily checks are conducted by staff, which helps to ensure that the premises remain safe and suitable for children. The provider talks about how staff and children establish appropriate 'club rules' together to help children understand the behaviour expectations at the provision.
- Staff comment that they feel very well supported and that their well-being is considered. They meet regularly with the provider to discuss any concerns they may have. Staff are encouraged to engage with regular training opportunities to enhance their knowledge and practice.
- The provider and staff demonstrate a thorough knowledge of how to keep children safe. They can identify the signs and behaviours that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. The staff team knows the appropriate actions to take should there be any concerns about a child's welfare or the conduct of an adult working with children.

There were no children in the early years age range present when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no early years children present, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states whether the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY498487
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10312428
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	0 to 0
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Willows Clavering Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901110
Telephone number	07432080441
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

Willows registered in 2016. The club operates term time only, from 7.30am to 8.40am and from 3.15pm until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. The club employs nine members of staff. Of these, five hold appropriate qualifications at level 3 or above, including two members of staff who work part time and hold qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Marisa White

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 provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector took a tour of the club with the provider. They talked about how the club is organised and discussed the play opportunities they provide for children.
- The provider and staff engaged in discussions with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- A sample of the club documents was reviewed by the inspector. This included evidence of staff suitability.
- Although there were no children in the early age range present at the time of this inspection, there were children present who were over the age of five years.

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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