

Inspection of S4A Group Ltd@Bourton Meadow Academy

Bourton Meadow Academy, Burleigh Piece, Buckingham MK18 7HX

Inspection date:

13 February 2024

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children enter the holiday club happily. They are very quick to settle and engage in play. Children who are new to the club meet friendly staff and feel safe and secure. Children have flexibility in the days they attend and make choices about what they want to play with. For example, children who attend the club regularly in the holidays tell the inspector which days they will attend this week and what is on offer on the different days.

All children show extremely positive attitudes to play. They talk fondly about the activities they like to engage in when they attend the club. For instance, on the day of the inspection, which was Shrove Tuesday, they delight in designing and making their own chef hats ahead of making pancakes. They engage and concentrate well as they competently use scissors, glue and pens to create their hats. Children enjoy learning about the community they live in and show great interest in the visiting fire engine and how it works. They show great confidence as they happily ask the firemen a range of questions.

Children show good manners and are polite and respectful to each other. They behave well and are confident to approach visitors to the club. Children enjoy playing competitive games and feel that they can trust the staff or ask them for help. They always have the choice to play outside or in the large hall, and they can access a range of sports equipment. For example, on the day of inspection, children negotiated the indoor gym equipment. They pulled themselves up on ropes, negotiated large hoops and balanced on beams. In addition, children enjoy competing in a range of team games, such as playing dodgeball.

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

- The provider and area manager have an effective oversight of this holiday club and work closely with their team. This is to ensure that staff deliver a broad range of stimulating activities for children to engage in and practise new skills.
- Staff have a good understanding of out-of-school care. They ensure that children can relax and socialise with their friends. They balance this well with opportunities for children to engage in stimulating activities that support their formal learning. The club provides a different environment during the holidays, in contrast to children's day at school.
- Children are independent and confident. They form friendships with each other and demonstrate that they are kind and caring. For example, they share resources and work together as a team. Older children are caring to their younger peers, inviting them to join in with their games. Children show high levels of engagement, both during planned activities and times of free play.

- The holiday club is overseen by the provider and area manager, who are actively involved in the day-to-day running. They lead the staff team, sharing their knowledge and providing direction. This helps the club to run smoothly and in an organised manner. After each holiday club, leaders reflect on what has worked well and what they would like to do differently in the future. For example, the area manager reflects on the need to review and improve snack time on busier days so that children do not become restless because, at times, they have to wait for long periods.
- Parents comment favourably about the exciting range of activities on offer to their children. They explain that staff show genuine warmth and get to know their children really well. This helps children to settle quickly and relish coming to the holiday club.
- Staff support children to follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands prior to meals and snacks. Children understand the routines and remember to tell a member of staff when they are going to go to the toilet, to support their safety and security.
- Young children are assigned a key person on starting at the club. This is an effective system and allows familiar staff to work with younger children. Children are happy seeing someone they recognise, and the key person equally knows these children well. All staff work at a range of local schools that feed into the holiday club. This helps to ensure a smooth transition from the schools to the holiday club and allows children to identify familiar staff.
- Staff are excellent role models. They set out the expectations of the club each morning and throughout the day. Children are confident, behave well and feel safe and secure at the holiday club.
- The provider wants the club to be successful. Staff undertake a range of training and use their experiences to support each other. Staff tell the inspector that they feel very well supported and that their well-being is checked upon at regular intervals.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY550542
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	10305270
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	60
Number of children on roll	150
Name of registered person	S4A Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901819
Telephone number	07989467850
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2018

Information about this early years setting

S4a Sports 4 All Ltd @ Bourton Meadow Academy registered in 2017 and is located in Bourton Meadow Academy, in Buckingham. The club is open on weekdays, during school holidays, from 8am until 6pm. The provider employs nine staff to work at this setting, one of whom holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

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 area manager and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- The area manager gave the inspector a tour of the premises and explained how the provision is organised.
- The inspector observed interactions between children and staff.
- Parents and children shared their views.
- The inspector spoke with the provider, area manager and staff at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of key documentation.

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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