

Inspection of Stay & Play

Horsted Infant School, Barberry Avenue, CHATHAM, Kent ME5 9TF

Inspection date: 16 April 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

Staff collect younger children from their classrooms and accompany them to the club. Older children meet staff at a designated meeting area within the school, before making their way to the club. Children arrive happily and eager to explore the various activities staff have organised. Children know to hang their coats up and put their bags in the designated box for their year group. Staff deploy themselves well and support children to settle in and engage in play. For example, staff remind children of the rules of table football and help them decide who will go in goal next. Children independently rotate their positions and make sure everyone has a turn in goal.

Outside, children have access to the school playground. They can choose if they want to go outside or stay inside, and know the way to the playground, which is a short walk from the main hall. Staff communicate well with each other and make sure every child is accounted for. For example, they use walkie-talkies to inform each other of children's transitions. Children have plenty of opportunity to be physically active. For example, they balance on low-level ropes and jump off large tyres. Children play ball games together in small groups while others practise handstands and cartwheels. Younger children enjoy playing imaginatively with sticks and grass. They pretend to make a campfire and remind each other how to do this safely.

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

- Staff feel well supported in their roles. They have regular supervision sessions, where they agree training targets. Staff have recently updated their safeguarding training and some staff have attended other courses, such as autism awareness. Staff feel able to share any concerns or suggestions they may have about the club and they feel managers have high regard for their mental health and well-being.
- The provider works in collaboration with the headteacher at the school. They communicate regularly to ensure they are up to date on any changes to policies and procedures. The provider reviews individual children's needs with the headteacher, to ensure they are best supporting all children.
- Children independently access the toilet and know they need to tell staff when they leave the hall. They know they need to use hand gel upon arrival to the club, and wash their hands before they have their tea. Children's personal development is supported well.
- Children understand the rules of the club and behave very well. For example, they know they must not run inside. Staff remind children to take turns when they play group games. Overall, children's behaviour is promoted well, and their

attitudes towards learning are good.

- Staff engage children in conversation and promote their awareness of healthy eating. For example, they ask children what their favourite meals are and name some vegetables, and other food items. Children then decide if these foods are healthy or unhealthy.
- Children demonstrate curiosity and enjoyment in their play. For example, they explore a variety of sensory activities. Children search for small dinosaurs hidden in coloured rice. Some children explore the texture of porridge oats, dried pasta and sand. Children play well together. They encourage and motivate others to join their play.
- Parents are very happy with the care their children receive. They are particularly happy with the flexibility of the sessions their children can attend. The staff use an online platform to share information with parents. Parents feel they are kept up to date about the activities their children take part in.
- Staff provide children with an annual questionnaire. They ask children about their favourite activities and resources. The provider uses this information to inform how staff plan future sessions, and any new resources they might need.

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	EY440453
Local authority	Medway
Inspection number	10336631
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	50
Number of children on roll	130
Name of registered person	Rachel Trout & Cheryl Crow Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP901313
Telephone number	07402 918 760
Date of previous inspection	29 November 2018

Information about this early years setting

Stay & Play registered in 2011. It operates from Horsted Infant School in Chatham, Kent. The setting is open each weekday during term time. It operates from 7.30am to 8.30am before school and after school from 3pm to 6pm. The holiday playscheme operates between 8am and 6pm during school holidays. The club employs four members of staff. The manager holds a qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Pippa Clark

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.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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