

Inspection of 4-11 After School Care And Learning

Holtsmere End Junior School, Shenley Road, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7JZ

Inspection date: 15 May 2024

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Staff create an exciting and stimulating environment based on the ages and interests of all children who attend. Children play tennis, football, and use chalks to create pictures in the extensive playground area. Those who wish to engage in more sedate activities, enjoy decorating pencil cases and making keyrings indoors. The vast choice of activities available ensures all children are happy and remain deeply engaged in play.

Children behave exceptionally well. They demonstrate impeccable manners and are kind and supportive to one another. For example, children compliment one another's artwork during craft activities. Staff adopt exciting strategies that encourages children to follow the rules and promotes positive behaviour. For example, children receive 'star of the week' awards to acknowledge the positive contribution they make to the after-school club.

Staff provide immense emotional and practical care for all children who attend. They demonstrate genuine enthusiasm when joining in children's play and deep empathy during one-to-one conversations. A highly effective key-person system offers additional support for the youngest children and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, all children settle extremely well and enjoy their time at the after-school club.

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

- Children settle extremely well in the after-school club. The provider has robust induction processes in place to support this. Staff gather detailed information about children's experiences and interests and use this to inform their planning. The setting adopts a 'buddy' system for new children. Older, more established children support their new friends during the first few weeks. They engage them in play and familiarise them with the routines of the after-school club.
- Parents are highly complimentary about the dedicated staff and the nurturing care they provide. They comment on how children look forward to attending and thoroughly enjoy all the activities staff provide. Parents of the youngest children deeply appreciate the written feedback and photographs documenting children's time at the after-school club.
- Children are incredibly confident and engage exceptionally well with staff, visitors, and one another. They chat enthusiastically to visitors, discussing their favourite activities and encouraging them to join in their play. Staff support children's self-esteem well. They offer an abundance of praise for children's efforts during activities and nominate them for various awards that recognise their talents and achievements.

- Children of all ages form exceptionally close bonds with one another. They are kind and friendly towards each other and adults. All children have a good understanding of taking turns and cooperate well in activities. For example, older children organise football matches with their younger friends.
- Staff work hard to build strong relationships with the schools they provide care for. They communicate well with class teachers to gather information about children's time at school. Staff collaborate particularly well with teachers when supporting the youngest of children and those with SEND. This ensures all children settle well in the after-school club.
- Children's safety is paramount. Staff have a clear understanding of how to identify when children may be at risk from harm and the correct referral process to follow. Staff supervise children well in all areas of the setting. They use walkie-talkies to communicate with one another, ensuring children are always within sight.
- The provider regularly evaluates the care she provides. She seeks regular feedback from staff, parents, and children, making changes where appropriate. Children create a wish list of activities they would like to explore. The provider refers to this when purchasing additional resources. This ensures the club continues to meet the changing needs and interests of all children.
- Children develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. Staff promote healthy eating by offering a nutritious breakfast and healthy snacks after school. They provide children with a wealth of opportunities to be active. For example, children organise football matches on the field and have access to play equipment in the extensive playground.

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	EY466761
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10339220
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	32
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	4-11 After School Care And Learning Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910190
Telephone number	07864501679
Date of previous inspection	5 July 2018

Information about this early years setting

4-11 After School Care And Learning registered in 2013. The club operates five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 7.45am until 8.45am and from 3.15pm until 5.30pm. The club employs eight members of staff, four of whom hold early years qualifications at level 2 and above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Antonia Campbell

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 and provider took a tour of the club. They discussed how the club is organised and the play opportunities provided for children.
- The inspector considered the views of parents by speaking to several during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documents, including evidence of the suitability of all staff.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children during activities.

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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