

Inspection of The Acorns Afterschool Club At Princecroft School

Princecroft Primary School, Princecroft Lane, Warminster BA12 8NT

Inspection date: 13 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

Children arrive eager to explore the exciting and varied activities on offer. Staff warmly greet children and ask them about how their day has been. Younger children confidently explore and gather in the tepee. They talk about their weekends with their friends and discuss how they went camping and that their 'tent was bigger and longer than this'. Older children focus intently as they play chess. They take turns and respect each other as they wait patiently, allowing each other the time they need to make their next move. Children say, 'You have to be smart to play chess, it is very challenging.' Older children act as good role models, encouraging younger children's imaginations, 'Pretend it is your birthday and we are having a party.' Younger children listen attentively, excitedly gathering toy plates and cups for their party. Children's motivation, concentration and focus are excellent.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff have high expectations and provide children with clear and consistent boundaries. For example, they follow the 'cool kids code' that are a set of rules that children and staff have created together. Staff are excellent role models. They value children's opinions and choices. They are attentive to children's needs and consistently engage with children.

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

- Staff meticulously plan the environment to support children's well-being, ensuring they have areas to relax and unwind after a busy day. Younger children sit comfortably in the cosy corner looking through books. Older children enjoy colouring and discussions about their day with their friends. Children form wonderful friendships with each other.
- Children have fun recalling some newly learned facts about their recent project on the Romans. For example, they talk about how some soldiers have feathers on their helmets. Children take part in fun competitions, such as 'mosaic colouring'. Staff ensure activities have a purpose. Children confidently discuss what they like doing at the club. Younger children say they like football outside, older children 'like everything, I give this club five stars.' Staff create a warm, calm environment, where children feel safe, secure and valued.
- Staff provide children with a range of healthy foods during their time at the club. Children enjoy a freshly cooked hot dinner and staff role model good use of table manners, such as please and thank you. Children pour their own drinks and confidently use cutlery. Older children have awareness of their friends' dietary needs and cultures. Staff obtain information regarding any special dietary requirements and ensure they adhere to this information accordingly.
- Children develop good self-care skills as they attend to their own toileting needs

and independently wash hands before mealtimes. Children find their own belongings, know where things are kept and can access what they need. Children's strong understanding of routines creates seamless transitions for them.

- Senior leaders are extremely dedicated and passionate about their roles and responsibilities. They ensure the long serving staff have regular supervisions and staff report high levels of well-being. Staff have opportunities to develop and update their knowledge. For example, recent training on asthma has provided staff with a deeper understanding of this medical issue to enable them to support the children.
- Parents speak highly of the club and the staff. They comment that their children often do not want to leave at the end of the session. Parents value the consistent information sharing, including any messages from the schools. Parents feel the club is unique as to what they offer in terms of children attending from other schools. They feel forming relationships with other children supports transitions into secondary school.

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	EY535696
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10335144
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	35
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Jackie Thomson and Nina Angove Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP904221
Telephone number	01985 213768
Date of previous inspection	6 June 2018

Information about this early years setting

The Acorns Afterschool Club At Princecroft School in Warminster registered in 2016. The club opens from 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday during term times only. There are seven members of staff employed to work with the children. Of these, three have relevant childcare qualifications at level 3, one at level 2 and there are three unqualified staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Chelsea Woollard

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact with the provider and has taken this into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The senior leader showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with children during play.
- Parents shared their views of the after-school club with the inspector.
- Children spoke to the inspector about their time at the club.
- The inspector held a meeting with the senior leaders. A sample of documents, including evidence of suitability of staff were viewed by the inspector.

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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