

Inspection of S4A Group Ltd @ Lace Hill

Lace Hill Academy, Catchpin Street, Buckingham MK18 7RR

Inspection date: 26 June 2024

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Met

Previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Staff are aware that children need time to rest and unwind after school. As a result, children are able to take part in games and activities at their own pace. Staff offer gentle encouragement and know children well enough to ensure their needs are met effectively. Overall, activities and games at the club are interesting for children and they enjoy taking part. Outdoors, children show how they can adapt their play using their own ideas. For example, when playing hopscotch, they practise hopping and jumping in different ways, jumping only on odd or even numbers and coloured squares.

Staff ensure that children at the club are safe. Children behave in ways that help keep themselves safe, for example, when sliding down a fire fighter pole, they try different ways to do this safely. Staff encourage ample opportunities for children to be physically active. Team games are a regular activity that brings children together. Children of all ages take part in games, such as dodgeball. They gain enjoyment from competing against each other and show a strong desire to win. Equally, children show good sportsmanship, they are gracious in defeat and are motivated to keep trying. Staff recognise and praise this. Children are keen to learn new things. They show interest in making daisy chains from flowers and watch intently, learning how to do this. Their interest and motivation to learn new things is evident as they talk with excitement about linking flowers together by their stems.

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

- Staff are good role models for children and show them respect. In return, children are respectful and kind towards staff and each other. Children arrive after their school day and settle quickly at the club. Staff greet them and show warm and welcoming relationships.
- Children's behaviour is consistently good. Staff follow the same general rules as the school, so these are known and understood. Children show that they know what is expected from them, for example they line up before playing outdoors and know that they must not play on the large outdoor equipment. They understand that the rules are there to help to keep them safe.
- Staff understand about supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They undertake training and support children well. This helps to ensure that all children are welcome and included at the club.
- Children enjoy taking part in planned activities. For example, during the inspection, children carried out experiments to see which liquid cleaned coins most effectively. This activity engaged children's interest and curiosity. Together, they guessed what might happen and used trial and error to add salt, fizzy

drinks and vinegar to their bowls to watch what happened to their coin. Children spent considerable time investigating as the activity was exciting and interesting for them.

- Some activities are less well planned than others. For example, some resources for children to play with are not well maintained and this affects children's enjoyment. At the drawing table, some pencils are blunt and felt tip pens do not work. Some dolls have no clothing for children to practise dressing them and expanding on their imaginative play.
- Children show confidence at the club and good awareness of each other. They are sympathetic to other's feelings. Children know what they are good at and talk with confidence about what they do well, such as playing on the gymnastics bar. Their ability to recognise their strengths shows they are developing positive self-esteem and self-awareness.
- Staff share some information with parents via the company website. However, staff do not communicate some information effectively with parents to help them to understand about club activities, what children eat for snack and how staff register children electronically to help alleviate any misunderstandings.
- Staff who work at the club say that they enjoy their work and plan for their career progression. They feel they receive good support from senior staff and have regular training. Providers have a good oversight of the club and ensure that it runs smoothly.

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	2678668
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	10350628
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	30
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	S4A Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901819
Telephone number	01280460560
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

S4A Group Ltd @ Lace Hill registered in 2022 and operates from Lace Hill Academy in Buckingham. The club employs three members of childcare staff. The club provides wraparound care from 7.30am to 8.45am and 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. In school holidays, the club provides holiday club sessions from 8am to 5pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Hayley Marshall-Gowen

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 observed activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's enjoyment, behaviour and engagement.
- A joint observation was completed and discussed with senior managers.
- During the inspection, the inspector held a meeting with senior staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- Parents were invited to share their views with the inspector. Several parents discussed their views during the inspection and the inspector took account of all feedback received.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024