

Inspection of Abbots Hall Out of School Club

Abbots Hall CP School, Danescourt Avenue, STOWMARKET, Suffolk IP14 1QF

Inspection date:

29 August 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 look forward to their time at the club. Staff create many opportunities for children to make choices and plan activities. They take account of the children's individual interests and often complement the experiences children have in school. Children fully immerse themselves in what the club has to offer and show high levels of engagement and enjoyment. For instance, children spend long periods of time exploring the construction bricks. They independently select the resources they need and talk to staff about what they are building.

Staff's interaction with children is very positive. They join the children at mealtimes and listen with genuine interest to their stories and ideas. This helps children to develop close relationships with staff and to feel a strong sense of belonging at the club.

Staff are good role models. They support children to make the right choices and are on hand to praise children when they share toys and use good manners. Children of all ages behave impeccably well and are very kind and thoughtful towards each other.

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

- Staff ensure that children have plenty of opportunities to get outside in the fresh air and take part in physical play. They get involved in children's energetic chasing games and motivate them to come up with new challenges. When children show an interest in water play, staff provide water and paintbrushes. This inspires children to experiment with making marks on the wall.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive good levels of support during activities and routines. Staff share information with parents to ensure good continuity of care for children with SEND. They build secure bonds with children and respect their personal preferences as they play. This helps children with SEND to feel reassured and settle quickly when they first attend.
- Staff promote children's independence and encourage them to take responsibility for their own personal care. They talk to children about healthy eating and support them to try new foods. For example, children get involved in chopping a selection of fresh fruits and use these to make fruit kebabs for snack.
- Staff involve children in sensitive discussions about themes such as staying safe online and road safety. They often invite firefighters and paramedics into the club to enhance children's awareness of people who help us. These activities help to strengthen children's understanding of how they can keep themselves safe.

- There are strong partnerships with the school staff, including when younger children are new to the club and preparing to start school. Staff meet with class teachers to discuss children's needs and how well children are settling. This helps them to adapt activities and ensure that children have opportunities to rest at the end of a busy school day.
- Staff ensure that children are safe at the club. They carry out thorough risk assessments of the indoor and outdoor environment. Staff deploy themselves effectively to ensure children's safety. When accidents occur, staff are quick to react, offering children comfort and applying the appropriate first aid.
- The management team is keen to review the provision and make improvements to benefit the children. Since the last inspection, staff have reorganised the sessions to enable children of similar ages to play together in groups. This has had a particularly positive impact on how quickly younger children form friendships and feel confident to complete tasks themselves.
- Recruitment processes are robust. All staff receive a thorough induction to ensure that they are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. Staff are encouraged to take up opportunities for professional development. For example, some staff complete additional training to help extend their understanding of how to support children with SEND.

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	959783
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10354804
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 12
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Abbots Hall Out of School Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521391
Telephone number	07913 682 413
Date of previous inspection	7 November 2018

Information about this early years setting

Abbots Hall Out of School Club registered in 2001. It is located in Abbot's Hall Community Primary School in Stowmarket, Suffolk. The club employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate qualifications at level 2 or above. The club opens from Monday to Friday, during school term time. Sessions are from 7.15am to 8.40am and from 3.15pm to 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Clements

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 manager showed the inspector the areas of the premises that the club operates from and discussed how they ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and the children during activities, both indoors and outdoors.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.

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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