

Cherubs and Imps

Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4NS

Inspection date	04/12/2012
Previous inspection date	22/01/2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	2
	Previous inspection:	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		2

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is good

- Children are confident and happy and very well-behaved. They have warm relationships with all staff members and older children, which promotes a constructive and friendly atmosphere.
- Children's self-esteem and decision making skills are well-developed as their ideas and opinions for activities are sought and incorporated in the planning of the activities. This means they enjoy their leisure time and feel a sense of ownership of their club.
- Parents are happy with the service provided. They have good levels of information about the activities their children enjoy and how this links into their learning and find the staff team very approachable. They praise the range of activities and the homely atmosphere which means their children enjoy attending the club.
- Safety or hygiene issues are identified and actively managed by staff. This allows children to enjoy the social aspects of meals times as they discuss a wide range of topics over a balanced and interesting snack.

It is not yet outstanding because

- Links between the club and the children's main Early Years Foundation Stage provider are not sufficiently developed, to allow the club to utilise the other setting's assessment of children's areas for development, when planning activities to support the next steps in children's learning.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are scheduled:

- at least once in every inspection cycle. The current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged as inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised for inspection where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playroom for children who are under eight years old and spoke to some of the children.
- The inspector spoke with the providers and their club supervisor at appropriate times throughout the observations.
- The inspector looked at children's records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of practitioner's suitability to work with children and the provider's improvement planning.

Inspector

Sarah Rhodes

Full Report

Information about the setting

Cherubs and Imps Out of School Club is one of two out of school clubs and a day nursery run by the same private provider. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The club opened in 2000 and operates from two rooms in a mobile unit in the grounds of Congleton High School on the outskirts of Congleton town centre. One room is used mainly for children under eight

years and the other room is used mainly for children aged over eight years. All children have access to outdoor play spaces including a grass field and a hard playground area provided by the school all year round.

The club is open five days a week from 7.30am to 9am and from 3pm to 6pm, during term times only. Holiday care is offered at the sister club, also in Congleton, during all holidays except Christmas. There are currently 50 children on roll. Of whom, two are in the early years age group. Children are collected from a number of schools in the area by out of school club staff, in a minibus. The club supports a number of children with special needs and/or disabilities. The club employs four members of child care staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, two at level 3 and two at level 2 and these members of staff are working towards a qualification at level 3.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- develop further partnership working with other providers to obtain a fuller picture of children's next steps to support the planning of activities to meet children's learning needs, especially where the child attends the other setting for most of their Early Years Foundation Stage provision.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The atmosphere in the club is one that encourages fun and constructive play. The staff understand the children have had a busy day and this is their leisure time. They get to know the children quickly and start by gathering information from both parents and the child about their likes and dislikes. This helps staff support children through the transition from pre-school care to after-school care because they can plan activities that interest the children. Staff make observations of what the children can do and collect photographs of the activities they have taken part in. These observations are used to evaluate children's progress in a broad way and specific ideas to support their development are noted under 'next steps' and planned into future activities. The club has some links with the children's main Early Years Foundation Stage providers at the school. However, links have not been fully developed to jointly identify the next steps in children's learning that the club can usefully support.

The children are happy and relaxed and enjoy their time at the club. A wide range of activities that cover all areas of learning, as part of an out of school provision, are

available for children to choose from. The children are confident to ask staff for games and activities in addition to those that have been set out. Their communication and social skills are very good and are well supported by staff and older children. The children are confident to talk at length in small groups at meal times about topics as diverse as brick castles and the camouflage of chameleons. They also join in with a big football game with the older children or have a go at skateboarding. Children have access to books and writing equipment. They also have access to craft equipment and enjoy making a variety of things, such as pompoms and their paintings are valued and displayed. Construction equipment is readily available and children are allowed to build on their creations over several days. This allows them to use their imagination and design skills over an extended period of time. Children use their knowledge of number and problem solving when playing board games or counting out how many plates they need for snack time. The children are able to benefit from extensive outdoor space, some of which is securely fenced and lit, this enables it to be used during darker winter nights.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

The children have good relationships with all staff. The transition from school to club is well-managed with transport from the schools to the club building being undertaken by a consistent staff group. This gives children confidence that they can go to staff members for a cuddle if they are tired or sad and when back at the club they can share some fun with staff when, for example, they are dressed up as a monster. Parents comment that the staff ensure they are updated about their child's well-being and how settled they are at the club. Children's behaviour is very good, staff help children think about other people's feelings and they learn to negotiate and cooperate with their play mates. For example, older children are helped to include younger children in their football games or share the construction toys. They celebrate special events, such as a child's birthday to reinforce that all the children are special.

Staff have the facilities to provide a range of light snacks and drinks, such as beans or spaghetti and toast, fruit and water or milk. Children are supported to develop very good self-care skills and table manners. They are reminded to undertake appropriate hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before snack time. Some children help to set the table or serve the food and all children are encouraged to thank the person serving them.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision

The children benefit from a setting which has a strong management structure. The owners frequently work in the club and have appointed a supervisor which means they can monitor the quality of the provision on a daily basis. Appropriate recruitment procedures and induction processes ensure staff's suitability is established when they are employed. On-going annual appraisals and intermediate 'supervision' meetings are undertaken with staff to help drive improvement and identify training requirements. Children are also safeguarded through clear policies and procedures which ensure staff can identify child

protection concerns and take appropriate action to protect children. Staff have a clear understanding of the risk assessments for the building and grounds. They are aware of additional risks posed by working on a shared campus and take any necessary precautions, for example, when crossing access roads.

Required policies and procedures are in place to help with the safe and smooth management of the setting. The club has a good capacity to maintain continuous improvement as the manager has a clear vision for short and medium term improvements. All actions and recommendations made at the last inspection have been completed and changes required by the revised Early Years Foundation Stage have been implemented. Staff are able to share ideas for improvement through team meetings and 'supervision' sessions. Parents and children are also actively encouraged to be involved in the development of the club, to comment on the provision and help plan improvements.

Other aspects of the partnerships with parents and carers are also strong. Parents are happy with the service provided by the setting and report they find the staff approachable and friendly. They have access to information about how the club operates through the parent pack of policies and the notice boards. The record of children's activities and learning is discussed with parents by the child's key person. Partnerships in the wider context are used to develop the quality of education. The setting links with other professionals to help children with additional needs when the need arises and attends meetings with local providers to exchange ideas. The group is committed to their role in ensuring all children, regardless of ability, can access their provision. The club is proactive in developing links with the children's main provider of the Early Years Foundation Stage to aid the transition between school and the club. This helps provide continuity in children's care, for example, by ensuring staff are aware if a child has been upset during the day.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305015
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	818729
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 17
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Cherubs and Imps Ltd
Date of previous inspection	22/01/2010

Telephone number

01260 299633

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises that are usually their own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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 Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, 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 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2012

