

Challengers Basingstoke

SAXONWOOD SCHOOL, Barron Place, Basingstoke, RG24 9NH



Inspection date

8 April 2015

Previous inspection date

1 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Enthusiastic and caring staff ensure that children enjoy themselves in a fun and supportive environment.
- Staff support children's growing independence and social skills well. They encourage them to make choices, manage their personal care and build positive relationships.
- Staff meet the safeguarding requirements to a high standard. They follow good care practices, so meet children's physical needs well and supervise children effectively to keep them safe and healthy.
- Staff get to know children well. They observe and listen to children so they can provide and adapt activities to accommodate children's preferences and interests.
- The management team monitor the practice of the staff effectively. The play leader demonstrates good quality practice, meets regularly with staff and arranges training to develop their professional skills.
- Staff plan enjoyable group activities, such as cooking, which helps children learn to follow instructions, play cooperatively and share in the satisfaction of making something delicious.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make available beneficial activities using natural materials, such as the sand pit, or resources that children can move and use in different ways to help them develop their ideas and problem-solving skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's outdoor play by ensuring they have regular access to natural materials, such as sand, and there are sufficient resources available that can be used in a variety of ways to encourage their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in activities indoors and outdoors, and discussed with staff how they support children's play and meet their care needs.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the play leader.
- The inspector held discussions with the play leader, including how she deploys staff to meet children's individual needs.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, policies and procedures, and evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their comments.

Inspector

Rachel Edwards

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time because they have freedom to join in with a variety of interesting activities. Staff make good use of information from parents, other settings children attend and their own observations. This helps them plan activities based on children's interests and developmental needs. For example, staff see a child frequently smelling objects and so provide different scented resources to engage their interest. Staff acknowledge children as they communicate in various ways. This gives children confidence to express their views and explore their environment. Staff follow children's interests, joining in enthusiastically with their play. Children enjoy playing boisterously in the soft playroom and relax in the calm environment of the sensory room. They can choose to play outside throughout the session, which especially benefits children who need to be physically active. However, staff do not always use all outdoor resources as well as possible.

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

Children form secure relationships with the friendly and welcoming staff, especially those who work full time at the scheme. To help children socialise with different adults, and to keep staff fresh, children's one-to-one workers change at midday and this works effectively. Parents receive information daily about their children's day from one of the staff who cared for them which, overall, parents are happy with. Children's record sheets include details of children's medical and personal needs, including behaviour management strategies. Staff meet daily to discuss the children and update their information. This enables them to meet children's individual needs very well. Staff focus on developing children's social skills. Staff support children in gaining valuable skills that will help them in their next stage of learning.

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

Staff understand and implement robust safeguarding procedures. They create a safe environment and supervise children well, while allowing them freedom to choose and explore. All staff receive safeguarding training and undergo suitability checks prior to starting work. The play leader meets regularly with staff to monitor the quality of the provision. Staff are reflective and constantly review how they can improve children's experiences. They share skills and knowledge to develop the whole staff team. For example, a member of staff has developed picture exchange cards to enable children to communicate more effectively. Staff have learned how to use this technique to benefit individual children. Staff work effectively with other professionals involved in the children's care and learning to ensure they meet children's needs well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY465861
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	977600
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Disability Challengers
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2014
Telephone number	01483 230930

Challengers Basingstoke registered in 2013. It is one of a number of groups run by Disability Challengers. The club operates from Saxon Wood School in Basingstoke, Hampshire. The club uses various areas of the school, including the hall and school grounds. The club is open from 9.30am to 4pm each day during the Easter and summer school holidays; in addition, they open on Saturdays throughout the year. Children attend from the local surrounding areas. The club employs 22 staff to work with the children; of these three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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