

Play and Learn @ Thorndown Infants/Primary School



Thorndown Infant School, Hill Rise, ST. IVES, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6SE

Inspection date	13 August 2015
Previous inspection date	15 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The staff and children work together to plan exciting and interesting activities that reflect children's interests and support their learning in school. As a result, children are eager to attend and enjoy their experiences in the club.
- Relationships between staff and children are very good because staff get to know the children well. Consequently, children are comfortable and relaxed in this friendly club.
- The managers and staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding and attend regular training to maintain their knowledge. They know what action to take to protect children if they are at risk of abuse or neglect.
- The club has good systems of self-evaluation. The provider seeks feedback from staff, parents and children. The management team identifies the most appropriate professional development for staff through informal observations and one-to-one meetings.
- Relationships with parents are strong because relevant information is shared routinely about their children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The system for sharing information is not fully established with all schools and early years settings that children attend.
- Staff do not make the best possible use of mealtime routines to further develop children's social and self-help skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with other providers by maximising information sharing opportunities, to help children prepare for changes in their lives
- make the most of opportunities at lunchtime, to help children further develop their social and self-help skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play and their interactions with staff indoors and outside, and looked at the toys and resources available to them.
- The inspector carried out a meeting with the manager and spoke at appropriate times to staff and children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector observed lunchtime routines.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including evidence of staff's qualifications and suitability, policies and procedures, and the club's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Ann Hornsby

Inspection findings

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

Staff are well qualified and experienced. This has a positive impact on their understanding of how children learn best through play. As a result, children play confidently in the club; they chatter to staff and each other, and eagerly choose activities. Interactions between staff and children are good. Staff constantly talk to children, ask questions and hold purposeful conversations. Staff join in with children and enjoy playing board games together, taking turns as they play. This supports their mathematical awareness and social skills. Children use their imagination and creative and writing skills well. For example, they initiate their own ideas, pretending to be Goldilocks as they re-enact well-known stories, build dens and write signs, such as 'keep off the grass', to convey a message.

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

Staff develop strong relationships with children. This helps children to be confident, motivated and engaged in their play. Staff are good role models and treat children and each other with respect, encouraging good manners and tolerant behaviour. Children develop firm friendships with each other and are kind and thoughtful. Children participate in many opportunities to be active outside, such as a game of cricket, and climbing and balancing on the trim trail. Staff teach children how to be safe. For example, children confidently explain why they wear high-visibility jackets when going outside and the importance of wearing safety helmets when riding bicycles. Children enjoy opportunities to sit in groups and interact with older children, such as at lunchtime. However, occasionally there are missed opportunities to further develop children's social and self-help skills.

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

Children's welfare is very well promoted. Secure recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. The good quality interactions are a direct result of the majority of staff being well qualified. This enables them to plan experiences based on children's interests and needs. As a result, this has a positive impact on outcomes for children. Management lead the staff team well and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively. This means children receive good quality care. The host school, onsite playgroup and club work together well. However, the procedures for sharing and exchanging information with other schools and early years settings children attend are not fully effective. Consequently, not all details about the children's achievements are known and used, to build on their existing skills and learning for the future.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY403594
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	850518
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 13
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	196
Name of provider	Play and Learn Before and After School Club Ltd.
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2010
Telephone number	01480 375257

Play and Learn @ Thorndown Infants/Primary School was registered in 2009. The out of school club opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. The breakfast club is open from 7.45am until 9am, and the after school club open from 3.15pm until 6pm. During the school holidays, the club is open from 8am until 6pm every weekday. The provider employs seven members of staff who work with the children. Of these, two members of staff hold a relevant qualification at level 6 and three hold an appropriate early years or playwork qualification at level 3.

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