

Explorers Link Club

Penketh South Community Primary School, Finlay Avenue, Penketh, WARRINGTON,
WA5 2PN



Inspection date	16 March 2016
Previous inspection date	2 November 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Since the last inspection, the manager has made significant improvements to enhance the quality of the club. She clearly demonstrates that she has the capacity to improve the club even further.
- Children make independent choices in their play from the broad range of activities on offer. Staff take account of children's different abilities, interests and ways of learning to make sure activities meet their needs.
- The environment is bright and welcoming. Children are happy to be at the club. They are greeted warmly by staff. This helps them to feel welcome and promotes their sense of belonging.
- Children's behaviour is very good. Staff are good role models who speak respectfully to children and model good manners. Children are polite, sociable and learn to share and take turns.
- Partnerships with the host schools are good. Staff have developed effective methods to share information, helping to support continuity of care and learning for the younger children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always evaluate how their extended knowledge, which is gained through completing training, is enriching the opportunities provided for children.
- On occasions, staff miss opportunities to enhance children's independence and self-care skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- assess the impact that completing training and conducting research is having, in order to build on good practice and provide the very best opportunities for children
- enhance opportunities for children to develop their independence and self-care skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's achievements.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the policies and procedures, risk assessments and the club's self-evaluation.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents, children and staff.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.

Inspector

Alison Regan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are confident in their knowledge of child protection issues. They know the action to take to report concerns about a child's welfare. There are good systems in place to monitor children's attendance and staff liaise with the school staff should they have any concerns. Recruitment and selection are robust and all staff undergo appropriate checks to ascertain their suitability. The manager leads the reflective and well-qualified staff team efficiently. Staff are clearly aware of their roles and responsibilities, contributing to the successful day-to-day running of the club. Systems for monitoring staff performance and supervision sessions are thorough and contribute well to continuous professional development. Staff are vigilant in ensuring that children play safely. Children access the trim trail with confidence while staff allow them to take some risks in their play. Partnerships with parents and carers work well. Parents are kept well informed about activities that children take part in and are positive about the care they receive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact well with children and make the most of opportunities to build on their skills and develop their confidence. They take part in role-play activities and fully support children to play imaginatively. Children are well supported in a variety of skills that helps to support their future learning. For example, children's language and communication skills are well promoted through group discussions and meaningful conversations with staff and their peers. Staff get to know children well through regular observations and have a good understanding of how they learn through play. Staff provide a good range of resources and activities, both indoors and outside, that is matched to children's individual needs. In addition, children share their thoughts and ideas readily with staff and their peers through regular consultation. This allows children to take some ownership in how the club is run and their ideas are fully respected and valued. This helps children to grow into confident communicators.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and thoroughly enjoy attending the club. Staff cheerfully greet them on collection from school. Children settle well and follow a familiar routine which they know very well. They get on well with others. Older children help the younger children to select their own resources. They play cooperatively together, throwing and catching the ball outdoors. The key-person system is effective. Staff collect essential information about children from all parents, such as information about allergies or medical needs. This helps staff build secure relationships with parents and children in the club. Children follow good hygiene routines and enjoy sociable snack times. Daily opportunities to be physically active are well planned. Children have access to an outside play area, as well as being able to use the school field.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY394947
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	1041459
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	83
Name of provider	Linda Anne Lowe
Date of previous inspection	2 November 2012
Telephone number	07759 310 435

Explorers Link Club was registered in 2009. It is managed by a private provider. The club employs five members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from 7.45am to 8.45am and 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only.

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