

Inspection date	26 September 2016
Previous inspection date	13 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager and staff have made excellent progress since the last inspection and demonstrate an outstanding capacity to make and sustain improvements to the setting.
- Children flourish in the welcoming, challenging and extremely well-organised environment. They enthusiastically join in with activities, are incredibly confident and develop exceptional social skills as they form positive relationships with the staff and other children.
- Children have fun as they engage in a broad range of interesting activities, indoors and outdoors, that successfully captures their interests.
- The manager and staff support continuity for children. A strong and secure relationship with the school aids this process. Effective and highly efficient information sharing ensures that staff get to know children exceptionally well and understand how to best meet their needs.
- Staff deployment is extremely good. Staff work together to ensure that children's safety is fully supported at all times.
- Staff have excellent partnerships with parents who are vocal in their support and praise for the staff and the quality of care their children receive.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the already very effective support for staff to develop their skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager and other staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector engaged with the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children's indoor and outdoor play.
- The inspector engaged in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled various documents, including risk assessments, the self-evaluation form, and a range of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Becky Phillips

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager expertly monitors and evaluates the club and constantly develops it. For example, the medication arrangements have been reviewed and strengthened. The manager takes into account the views of parents and children to reflect the needs of the families attending. The manager has rigorous recruitment procedures in place and provides excellent support and training opportunities for the staff. She intends to strengthen arrangements even further with new strategies, such as peer observations. Safeguarding is extremely effective. The leadership and management team of the provision places the well-being of children as its number one priority. Staff are extremely confident in their understanding of child protection matters. They are vigilant in supporting children's welfare. They listen to children and know them extremely well. Staff have very high expectations of the children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's interactions with children are extraordinarily positive and of a high quality. Staff help children to develop new skills and support children's interests extremely well. For example, children are completely absorbed in pond dipping; they collect animals and insects from the pond and use a key to recognise what they are. Children have lots of opportunities to develop their own ideas and imagination. For example, they eagerly explore junk items outside and persevere for long periods of time to design and construct ambitious models. Children take part in a wide range of outdoor activities that really interest them, such as sessions in woodland areas where they use tools to make artefacts, climb trees and learn to take risks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

There are highly effective systems to support children settling into the club. For example, older children offer to act as a 'buddy' for younger children. They take their time showing new children around and introduce them to the routine and the activities provided. Children make lots of choices, solve problems and work really well together. For example, a group of children are chosen by the group to be 'Acorn Agents'. These children make sure rules are followed and check that everyone is happy. Children develop an excellent understanding of how to stay healthy. For example, they get plenty of exercise and opportunities to rest after a busy day at school. Children eat a healthy range of snacks and help prepare snacks for the group. They also have their own vegetable patch and learn how fruit and vegetables grow. Children are exceptionally well behaved, kind and considerate to each other. They develop good values and are involved with the local community. For example they take part in food banks and charity events to raise money.

Setting details

Unique reference number	122478
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1054404
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	4 - 11
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	85
Name of registered person	Acorns Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903033
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2015
Telephone number	01932 259604

Acorns After School Club registered in 1999. It is located in Walton Oak School in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. The out-of-school club is open each weekday from 7.45am to 8.45am and 3.10pm to 5.30pm, during term time only. The holiday play-scheme is open for two weeks at the end of the summer term and for a short time at Easter from 9am to 5pm. The club employs 14 members of staff. Of these, two hold qualifications at level 5, two hold qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2.

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