

The Hive @ Mildmay

Mildmay Infant School, Robin Way, Chelmsford, CM2 8AU



Inspection date	5 October 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- The new manager and her staff team work well together to provide a safe, stimulating play environment. They are committed to developing the club further.
- The key-person system is successful in helping children to settle in well and secure positive relationships with the other children. Staff build close, warm and supportive relationships with children and their families.
- Staff work particularly well with parents to keep them informed about their children's welfare and share information to support care at home. Parents speak highly of the staff and feel that the club provides a valuable service for them and their children.
- All members of staff work within the host school. This helps to ensure continuity in learning and care. Staff provide support for homework and help to reinforce skills that children are struggling with, as and when requested by parents.
- Staff support children who have special educational needs or disability well. They work effectively with parents and the school staff, and also draw on the expertise of relevant professionals to help ensure that the children are well supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children are taught about safety and learning to manage risks when in the setting, staff do not extend this to reinforce children's growing awareness of safety in the wider community.
- While staff value the views and suggestions from parents and children to help improve the provision, the review and monitoring process does not yet set more ambitious targets to raise standards to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities to reinforce children's awareness of how to keep themselves safe in the wider community
- improve the methods for reviewing and monitoring practice, in order to inform priorities and set even more ambitious targets for rapid improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of staff's practice during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's play and enjoyment of activities.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club's manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Vicky Turner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are trained in safeguarding and have a good understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe. They have a clear understanding of what to do should they have concerns about a child's welfare. The premises and outdoor play areas are safe. Staff implement effective risk assessments and policies. Well-established systems for recording children's arrival and departure times help staff to keep track of children's movements. Staff are vigilant so children are well supervised at all times. Staff have completed specialist training to make sure that they understand how to support vulnerable families. This helps them to identify any children who may be at risk of harm from extreme behaviours and views. Recruitment procedures and induction are good. Systems for monitoring staff performance and supervision are good and contribute well to staff's professional development. Children attend regularly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a safe, well-organised play environment for children to play and socialise. Interaction between staff and children is highly positive and staff know how and when to support and facilitate children's play. Staff use their knowledge of childcare to plan fun activities that support children's interests and topics that they are learning at school. Children are very involved and contribute their ideas to the planning of activities. For example, children learn about the rainforest and make paper plate animal masks. They use a variety of beads to make jewellery, supporting their learning about kings and queens. Children learn about seasonal changes and make textured hedgehogs. Children's language and communication skills are very well promoted. They participate in role play activities, share books in the book corner and engage in meaningful discussions with the staff. Children learn about different cultural events throughout the year and are developing a growing understanding about people and communities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thrive in this calm, fun environment. They are enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. Children demonstrate a real sense of belonging to the club and feel valued by the staff. Children's independence is well supported. They make choices with regards to activities and make decisions for snacks and tea. Children access resources and equipment that they need for their play. Children behave well and demonstrate good social skills. They know that there are boundaries and understand what is expected of them. They are encouraged to respect each other's space. Older children look after the younger ones. Children's health is well promoted. There are good opportunities for children to be physically active on a daily basis. Staff encourage children to eat healthily. The menu provides children with healthy choices. Teatime is a happy and social event when children talk about the school day and their favourite foods. Staff value children's work which is displayed around the room. Staff offer meaningful praise to boost children's self-esteem. They promote children's independence well. Children's movement from the school to the club is seamless as they are well supervised when escorted and are safely handed over to the staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482306
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	990290
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 - 10
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Busy Bees Day Nurseries (Trading) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900805
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01543 678530

The Hive @ Mildmay was registered in 2014 and is run by a limited company. The club employs three members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The club opens from Monday to Friday and during term time only. Sessions are from 3pm until 6.30pm. The club supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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