

Head Start Care Club

Smallthorne Primary School, Chetwynd Street, Smallthorne, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST6 1PR



Inspection date

4 January 2017

Previous inspection date

29 April 2013

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

- Staff give a high priority to children's safety. Effective staff deployment is in place so that children can choose to play indoors or outside. Ratios of adults to children are well maintained and exceeded at all times.
- Children are allocated a key person. This helps them to build close attachments with a member of staff, who ensures that their individual needs are met. Children settle quickly and feel a sense of belonging in the club.
- Children's behaviour is managed sensitively according to their age and stage of development. Positive reward systems encourage children to strive to always do their best. Staff are good role models. Children learn by example to take turns, share, tolerate differences and respect each other.
- A strong partnership exists between staff and parents. This has a positive impact on children's care and well-being. Staff spend time at the end of each session to speak to parents about what is being provided for their children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always ensure they gather enough information from the school on site to consistently support children.
- The manager does not always focus on developing staff's professional development to ensure the highest quality of practice is consistently delivered.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the links with the school on site to share more comprehensive information about how they will work together to support children's learning and development
- focus on providing professional development opportunities for staff that raise the good quality practice already achieved to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector held meetings with the registered person. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records and a range of other documents, such as accident and attendance records. She discussed the club's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff's suitability, qualifications and training.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views from a recent questionnaire.

Inspector

Lesley Bott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff keep up to date with regard to their roles and responsibility regarding child protection. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms that may indicate that a child is at risk of abuse. They are clear about the procedures for reporting any safeguarding concerns about a child in their care. Ongoing effective risk assessments and daily visual checks make sure that any hazards are identified and minimised. Effective systems are in place to evaluate the club. Staff regularly seek the views of parents and have children's consultation sessions. Staff use this information to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. They have recently introduced different and more exciting venues to visit with children during the school holidays. Staff are supported regularly through supervision meetings as a way of improving their performance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a clear understanding about how children learn. They spend time talking to children and finding out about what they have been doing at school. Staff and other children show respect to those who wish to play quietly on their own. Children enjoy their time at the club and are allowed to become immersed in their play, not wanting to leave when parents arrive. Staff effectively provide support and reassurance to children where required. Staff understand the differing needs of the ages of children attending. All children are offered a variety of opportunities according to their preferences as they make choices about whether to play outside or inside. Children's creativity is promoted well by staff. They provide a varied range of tools for children to explore play dough. Staff ask children purposeful questions and they have lively conversations as children describe the 'unusual' food they are making.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff ensure that the environment is warm and welcoming. Equipment provided is appropriate for all the different ages of children attending. Staff are able to set purposeful challenges for children. All children show that they know and understand the daily routine. Children take responsibility for hanging their coats and bags up when they arrive. They quickly prepare themselves for snack and they understand good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before eating. Staff help children to develop their independence. Children are encouraged to help prepare food, spread their own toast and help staff to clean the tables afterwards. Children are given opportunity to pour their own drinks of water and milk. Healthy lifestyles are promoted well, as children have daily opportunities to be outside to develop their physical skills and enjoy well balanced and nutritious food. Children are learning the importance of keeping themselves safe. They listen well to the instructions from staff as they move around the club.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY442713
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	1065856
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	50
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Sharon Pender
Registered person unique reference number	RP514362
Date of previous inspection	29 April 2013
Telephone number	07757542921

Head Start Care Club was registered in 2012. The club employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 6. The club opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 3pm until 6pm during term time and 7.30am until 6pm during school holidays.

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