

The Alpha Club

Breakfast/Afterschool/Holiday Club



Gordon Primary School, Craighton Road, London, SE9 1QG

Inspection date	21 February 2018
Previous inspection date	6 January 2015

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

- Children are confident in their communication and language development and participate in meaningful discussions with their peers. Staff interact positively with children and effectively support them to develop their social skills.
- Staff set clear boundaries and praise children for their good behaviour. They teach children to share toys, take turns as they play and treat each other kindly. Older children show great care and tenderness, as they support the younger children in their games.
- Children have good opportunities to develop healthy lifestyles. They have regular opportunities for exercise in the fresh air. Children eat freshly cooked, nutritious meals.
- The provider and staff team strive to provide children with the best experiences they can. They successfully evaluate all aspects of the provision, taking account of the views of parents and children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for children to gain information about the themes they are covering, to help ignite children's imagination and creativity as they take part in adult-planned activities.
- Although systems to monitor staff performance are in place, they are not rigorous enough to provide a sharp focus on extending staff knowledge and practice further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to develop their ideas and enhance their creativity
- strengthen the arrangements for performance management, to provide a sharper focus on enhancing staff's knowledge and practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to children about their time at the club.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's policies and procedures, risk assessments, self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tracy Hopkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are knowledgeable about how to recognise and respond to signs of abuse and they understand how to inform relevant agencies. The provider implements robust vetting procedures to ensure that children are cared for by suitable people. A comprehensive induction procedure helps staff to quickly understand their role and responsibilities. Partnerships with parents are very effective and a good two-way flow of information helps to provide continuity in meeting children's needs. Parents speak positively about the care their children receive from the staff. They feel their children are safe and are reluctant to leave if parents arrive early. There is a very happy atmosphere at the club.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The environment is inviting and well organised. Children enter the club with enthusiasm and quickly settle. They select their play from a wide range of activities that is set out for them. Staff are attentive to children and join in with their play well, such as when children are playing with small-world doll's house and figures. Staff talk to children kindly and with respect. They ask questions and give children plenty of time to think and answer. Children are confident communicators and make their needs known. They concentrate and work together as they complete jigsaw puzzles. Children use mathematical skills, such as counting or matching shapes, as they take part in board games. Children look at books for pleasure. The older children read stories to the younger children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show that they are very happy and secure at the club. Staff encourage older children to 'buddy up' with the younger children. This helps, along with the effective key-person system, to settle younger children in the club very quickly. Staff make sure the areas where children play are clean, safe and free from hazards. Risk assessments help to ensure that the premises are safe for children. Children learn effective ways to help keep themselves safe. For example, staff remind them how to take care when using knives, as they help with preparing the food for tea. Staff support children in following good hygiene routines. For example, staff remind children to wash their hands before eating and after messy play. All children are independent and confident, and begin to move around the different areas on their own. Staff provide children with many opportunities to learn about the wider world and people who are different to themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414799
Local authority	Greenwich
Inspection number	1085926
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	45
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	Alpha Chains Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901203
Date of previous inspection	6 January 2015
Telephone number	02088593586

The Alpha Club Breakfast/Afterschool/Holiday Club registered in 2010. It operates from a room in the playground of Gordon Primary School, in Eltham, which is located in the London Borough of Greenwich. Children have direct access to two outdoor play areas. Two staff members who work directly with children hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The club operates a breakfast club from Monday to Friday 7.30am to 9am, and there is an after-school club from 3.30pm to 6.30pm, during term time.

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