

Playtarium at St Jo's

St. Josephs Catholic Primary School, Gardenia Avenue, Luton LU3 2NS



Inspection date	9 October 2018
Previous inspection date	11 June 2014

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

The provision is good

- Staff create a welcoming environment for children to relax and play. Children choose from a variety of resources and welcome staff's contributions to their games and craft activities.
- Providers drive continual improvements with the manager. For example, they seek focused guidance from other organisations to help them review policies and update and strengthen the information in their staff handbook.
- The manager and staff encourage children to consider others in the local and wider community. Children vote to support a charity. They work together and sell craft items they have made in the club to raise funds for the charity.
- Children behave well. Staff encourage them to set ground rules for everyone to follow. Children create posters to help remind themselves and others of the values they selected.
- Staff recognise children's different ages and stages of development. Staff make time for children to spend time with others of a similar age. This helps to provide the youngest children with opportunities to play and explore at their own pace in a more relaxed and quieter environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some of the outdoor areas are not used as well as possible for children who prefer to play outside, to aid them in extending their interests and enhancing their already good-quality interactions to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and amend how outdoor spaces are utilised to offer children who prefer to play outside even more opportunities to extend their interests and enhance their interactions to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside the club hut and outside. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability of staff. She looked at other documentation, including registers and induction material.
- The inspector spoke with the manager about the quality of the interactions staff have with children.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents and took their views into consideration.

Inspector

Katrina Rodden

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know how to report any concerns they have about children's welfare. The manager works closely with staff from the host school to help promote children's well-being, such as sharing information about significant changes in family circumstances. The experienced staff team shares ideas together and welcomes opportunities to promote staff's professional development through training and reading professional publications and articles. Providers follow robust procedures to recruit suitable staff to work in the club. They promote a strong ethos towards playwork and have high expectations of the staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide resources that children use in a variety of ways. They confidently add small challenges to children's play, such as encouraging them to solve problems for themselves and to predict what might happen next. Staff encourage children to extend and repeat what they have learned in school. Older children take their violins outside to practise what they have been taught. They support those who have just begun to play an instrument. Children return to favourite activities. Younger children work out what will happen to paint when they put it in a rotating container. Staff use mathematical and scientific language to help support children's understanding of the changes they observe. Children immerse themselves in imaginary play. They create stories about what dolls might be doing or saying while they move them along wooden balancing beams. Staff work in partnership with parents. They pass messages between the host school and home and talk to parents about what their children have been doing in the club.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children socialise well with their peers in the club. The younger children enjoy playing with the older ones, who are positive role models. Together they play with parachutes and ball games. When children first begin in the club, staff ensure children are not left out. They suggest buddies to play with and invite lone children to join in group games. This helps children feel valued. Children settle quickly and gain confidence, which assists them to build strong relationships with staff and others. Staff encourage children to think about the effects exercise has on their bodies while they run around outside. This helps children understand the importance of healthy lifestyle choices. Staff supervise children while they engage in risky play. This helps children begin to learn how to keep themselves safe and gain confidence while they succeed in their explorations and experiments.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419651
Local authority	Luton
Inspection number	10068950
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	311
Name of registered person	PLAYtarium Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP530266
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2014
Telephone number	07508846582

Playtarium at St Jo's registered in 2010. It is managed by a voluntary management committee and has links with the host school. There are currently 10 staff working directly with the children. Of these, four hold qualifications at level 3 or above. The setting opens Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 7.45am until 8.45am and from 3.15pm until 6pm.

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