

# Appleton Thorn Link Club



Appleton Thorn Primary School, Arley Road, Appleton, WARRINGTON  
WA4 4RW

<b>Inspection date</b>	4 March 2019
Previous inspection date	16 July 2015

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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

### This provision is good

- The senior management team have a clear view of the strengths of the out-of-school provision and areas for development. They demonstrate a commitment to future improvement.
- Staff have developed effective partnerships with the school and gather information which helps them to support children's individual needs.
- Children are happy and enjoy their time at the out-of-school provision. They spend time with their friends and make choices about what activities they take part in.
- Staff develop close relationships with the children they care for. Children demonstrate that they are comfortable and feel safe in their care. They confidently talk to visitors.
- Leaders' systems for monitoring staff performance are not yet fully embedded. Staff are not always provided with opportunities to further develop their practice in order to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality staff engagement at all times.
- There are occasions when staff do not take all children's interests into consideration when planning activities. For example, some of the older children are not fully engaged at all times because the activities provided do not maintain their attention.
- On occasion, staff do not give careful consideration to the organisation of the out-of-school provision. Children do not always have a calm, quiet area to spend time in if they choose, which means their emotional well-being is not always fostered 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:

- enhance the systems for monitoring staff performance to ensure that children are consistently provided with high-quality experiences
- reflect the interests of all children when planning activities so that they are fully engaged at all times
- allow children to spend time in a quieter, more relaxed area if they choose to.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the senior leadership team, reviewed documentation and checked the suitability of staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider and discussed how the leadership team supervise staff.
- The inspector spoke with children throughout the session and took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.

### Inspector

Wendy Dockerty

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders make detailed policies easily accessible to parents both at the out-of-school provision and on the company website. Staff complete regular online training to ensure their knowledge is up to date. They are able to recognise and refer any concerns they have for children's welfare. The senior leadership team complete evaluations of the out-of-school provision and have identified areas for future development. They are in the process of introducing peer observations between staff in order to share best practice for staff development. Staff develop effective relationships with the school. They talk to teachers about children's individual progress, particularly those children with additional needs, which they consider when planning activities. Their good partnerships with parents ensure that they can share information effectively. Staff talk to parents when they collect their children, and messages between school and parents are passed on. Parents comment on staff being approachable and feel that they can easily contact the provider, should they have anything they wish to discuss.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have fun at the out-of-school provision. They are observed to be happy and enjoy spending time with their friends. Children confidently move between the different activities that are provided and talk about their favourite things to do. For example, younger children enjoy building with the wooden blocks and playing with the train set. They develop their imagination as they care for baby dolls, or play with dinosaurs and fantasy castles. Children sit with staff to play table-top games and draw pictures. Staff complement what children are learning in school and pre-school as they talk to children about the colours they are using. They develop their counting skills through games.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff talk to children about appropriate behaviour, such as not running in the hall when other children are engaged in activities. They use behaviour management strategies to help children to understand about expected behaviours and listen to adults. For example, staff raise their hands and wait for children to be calm and show they are listening. Children are encouraged to take turns and share resources. They are reminded to respect other children's needs and value their preferences. Children learn about keeping themselves healthy. For example, they wash their hands before eating and know this is to get rid of any germs. Children develop independence as they help to serve their own snack and drinks. During the week, children enjoy a variety of fruit, vegetables, cheese and tuna, and a popular snack is cereal. Children use the outdoor area on most days. They take part in physical activities, such as skipping, jumping, running and ball games. This helps them to understand about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	315260
<b>Local authority</b>	Warrington
<b>Inspection number</b>	10066518
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Out-of-school day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	3 - 11
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	57
<b>Name of registered person</b>	JK Link Clubs Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP903574
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	16 July 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	07813803392

Appleton Thorn Link Club registered in 2001 and is one of three clubs managed by JK Link Clubs Limited. It operates from Appleton Thorn School in Warrington. The out-of-school provision employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2. The senior management team of JK Link Clubs hold appropriate qualifications at level 6 and 7. The out-of-school provision opens Monday to Friday from 8am until 9am and from 3pm until 6pm, during term time only.

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