

Xyz After School Club

Aboyne Lodge School, St Albans AL3 5NL



Inspection date	22 October 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

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

- The highly reflective directors support the manager and her staff team to improve the provision and develop their professional knowledge further. They offer professional development opportunities and encourage staff to share information and ideas they gain on their training with their colleagues.
- Children support each other well at the club. The buddy system in place encourages younger children to learn from the older ones. Children play well together and help each other as they play.
- Children settle very quickly into the club. Staff gain a useful range of information from parents before the children start, so that they can support their interests from the time they begin. Parents are well informed of their children's time at the club.
- Children are offered a wide range of opportunities to learn and explore. They enjoy visits from various services, for example, a visit from a reptile handler and some animals. Staff skilfully link these experiences to the topics that they are covering and provide children with a good variety of activities to support their learning even further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Younger children do not consistently have enough opportunities to develop their independence at mealtimes fully.
- Staff do not always provide children with consistent opportunities to develop their understanding of the importance of following good hygiene practices.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support younger children to become more independent during mealtimes
- enhance opportunities for children to gain an even stronger understanding of the importance of good hygiene practices.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used by the club.
- The inspector and the manager observed a planned activity and discussed the impact of the teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the directors and the manager, and looked at a range of relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at suitable points throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents who use the club and took their views into consideration.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a strong understanding of the process to follow if they have a concern about the welfare of a child. Staff receive good support and they take advantage of regular supervision discussions with the manager to enhance their practice further. The manager takes their strengths into consideration when planning activities. For instance, staff make suggestions for enjoyable activities that they are confident to lead themselves. Staff skilfully link children's learning to the topics that are being covered by the children at school. They communicate effectively with teachers and pass on messages from the parents when required. Staff ensure that the premises are safe for children. They assess risks as they arise. The manager monitors younger children's progress carefully and discusses their progress with parents and the class teacher to support children's continuity of care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy their time at the club. Staff know the children well. They ask them a range of questions and encourage them to solve problems they encounter. For instance, they support children to think about how they can use the shapes they cut out from paper when they make hedgehog pictures. Children create models using plastic building blocks and develop their imaginations as they play. They proudly show their parents what they have created, such as the spaceships they make. Children enjoy playing outside with each other. They focus as they learn and staff motivate them to develop their ideas further. For example, they suggest to children that they use chinks outside to decorate the tyres in the play area. Children recognise that the work they create is valued by staff. Staff thoughtfully display children's artwork around the room. The manager makes use of staff's varied cultural backgrounds to support children's understanding of the wider community around them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There is a calm atmosphere at the club. Staff talk to children about their time at school and praise them for their achievements during the day. For instance, staff enthusiastically discuss children's achievement stickers that they have gained at school with them. Staff support children with allergies well. Children choose from a wide selection of healthy snack items, including wraps, vegetables, fruit and yogurts. Staff are vigilant to ensure that they store medication securely. Children have opportunities to relax after a busy day at school. For example, they sit quietly in the cosy reading area and look at books. Children are happy to ask staff for help if they need it. They form strong relationships with the adults who work with them and confidently talk to them about the games they play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538060
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10079246
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 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Abc-Xyz Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP538058
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07766347646

Xyz After School Club re-registered in 2016 and is managed by Abc-Xyz Childcare Ltd. It employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and 4. The club offers a breakfast club on Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 8.45am. The after-school club opens from 3.15pm to 6pm on Monday to Thursday, and on Friday until 5pm.

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