

First Friends After School Club



St Albans School, Newstead Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby, Derbyshire, DE21 6NU

Inspection date 7 May 2015
Previous inspection date 8 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Management and staff have a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Recruitment procedures are robust. Children's safety is a priority for the staff. They use risk assessments to ensure that the environment is safe for the children to use. As a result, children's safety and well-being are effectively promoted.
- Children make good progress in their learning because they are excited and motivated by the wide range of fun activities available for them. Staff provide a stimulating, well-resourced outside environment, which provides a wide range of good experiences to promote children's physical development and understanding of the natural world.
- Children are happy and feel safe and secure as they enjoy warm and caring relationships with staff. This helps children's emotional well-being.
- Management regularly review and prioritise improvements to develop children's care, learning and play opportunities. The staff team work hard to implement changes to improve outcomes for children.
- Staff work closely with the host school and other professionals to meet children's individual needs effectively. This makes a significant contribution to children's individual care, learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always gather information about what children can do from their parents. Consequently, they do not have a full picture of children's abilities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the information gained from parents about what children are capable of doing at home and school, so children can make best progress in their learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff and held a discussion with the manager during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children engaged in activities both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documentation and records. These included children's learning and tracking records, planning documentation and staff's files.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures and the action plan.

Inspector

Janice Hughes

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children enter the club with enthusiasm and excitement. Staff have a secure understanding of how children learn through play. They carry out observations on the children. This enables them to create activities that reflect children's interests and complement the experiences they receive at school. Staff talk to parents before their children start. They find out about children's likes and dislikes. However, this does not extend to finding out about what children can already do, to inform staff's assessments of their abilities. Children are confident and active learners. They instigate their own play as they investigate the activities on offer to them. For instance, they explore the texture of shaving foam, while discovering if magnets still connect through the foam. They concentrate, listen to instructions and cooperate with each other as they play. Consequently, children are acquiring skills for future learning. Staff interact with children in a friendly way to make all games and activities enjoyable.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff welcome children to the club. Children feel valued and cared for. They benefit from the welcoming, relaxed environment. The host school passes on information about what children do in school. This helps the club staff to meet children's needs effectively. Children are well behaved. This is because staff are managing children's behaviour effectively. As a result, children are polite and courteous to adults and their friends. Staff encourage children to learn about healthy eating at tea time. They often provide a hot meal, such as beans on toast. Children sit together, making it a social event. They very much enjoy the outdoor environment and benefit from the fresh air and exercise. Children develop good hygiene procedures and manage personal routines themselves. Staff teach children effectively about keeping themselves safe. For example, they carry out fire drills, so children know how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager is a strong leader. She is committed to providing a high-quality after school club. Staff are well qualified and experienced. This enables them to understand how children learn best through play. The manager checks the children's learning records to ensure they continue to make good progress. As a result, staff plan activities that are of interest to children and challenge them effectively. The manager reflects on her practice and that of the staff. She uses self-evaluation well to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the club. She uses action plans to ensure improvements are made. Staff performance is good. They attend regular one-to-one supervisions, annual appraisals and staff meetings. This helps the manager to ensure staff attend appropriate training, to benefit all children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259120
Local authority	Derby, City of
Inspection number	867140
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	First Friends P.D.N. Limited
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2011
Telephone number	01332 677660

First Friends After School Club was registered in 2001. The club opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 8.55am, and from 3.30pm to 6pm during term time. During the school holidays and teacher training days, sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. There are four members of staff, including the manager, who work directly with the children. Of these, one holds a qualification at level 4, while the other staff hold early years qualifications at level 2 or 3.

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