

Inspection of After School at the Preschool

Harford Hall, St Laurence Church, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2BB

Inspection date:

31 October 2023

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Staff greet children in the playground when they finish school. They share key messages about children's day at school before walking together to the after-school club. Children chat about their day and staff remind them of how to stay safe when crossing the roads. Relationships between staff and children are warm and friendly.

The after-school club is inclusive. Staff welcome all children, including those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff create spaces for children, either outdoors or inside, to give them time to regulate their behaviour. This supports children to see what other children are doing but feel safe while taking time to decide what they would like to do next.

Children are happy at the after-school club. They appreciate that they get to choose what they do. Children enjoy playing with different friends from the ones they play with at school. They explain that the after-school club does not feel like school. Children have lots of opportunities to be physically active, when they are inside in one area of the hall and during regular visits to the local park.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff know children well. They set up a range of resources which children can access while they are at the after-school club. Staff help children to complete puzzles. They explain that it might be helpful to find the outside pieces first. Staff help children to match the correct pieces to complete the puzzle as they chat about their day. Children are confident to ask for specific games that they would like to play with their friends.
- Staff make mark-making resources always available, so that children can draw or write. Some children choose to sit quietly and read a book when they arrive. If children want to complete homework while they are at the after-school club, they know they can ask staff for support.
- Staff set the expectations of how children will behave at the after-school club. They acknowledge that children need to be able to burn off energy. Staff remind children of the rules during the session and to be aware of other children who attend to ensure that all children are safe.
- Children enjoy a hot meal and a drink while they are at the after-school club. Staff offer children choices about what they would like to eat for their snack later. They provide children with a choice of fruit or vegetables alongside their meal.
- Staff are mindful of children's dietary preferences and any allergies when preparing food. However, at times, staff do not give children consistent

opportunities to take on some roles at mealtimes, such as serving food to their friends, to give them responsibility and promote their independence.

- The manager makes sure that there are plenty of staff at the after-school club to meet the needs of the children who attend. They employ additional staff to walk children from school to the after-school club to ensure that they are safely supervised during this transition.
- Staff report that they like working at the after-school club. They complete regular training. Staff say that they enjoy spending time with children and getting to know their different personalities. They get down to children's level to talk to them and make sure that they give attention to all children while they are at the after-school club.
- The manager and staff understand the importance of establishing good partnerships with parents. Parents praise the care offered by the manager and staff at the after-school club. They appreciate that staff pick up later if their child chooses to attend an extra-curricular activity in school or at one of the local halls.
- Parents describe the after-school club as 'a familiar haven' and praise staff for meeting their children's emotional needs. Older children often choose to stop by and see staff after they have left the after-school club and started at secondary school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe. They attend safeguarding training and are aware of a range of safeguarding issues, such as county lines and internet safety. Staff can explain the process to report a concern about a child. They are aware of the other professionals who may be involved to ensure that children are safe. Staff understand the procedure to follow should they have a concern about a colleague working in the after-school club. The manager ensures that the relevant checks are carried out to make sure that staff are safe to work with children. Staff always supervise volunteers who help at the after-school club.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2658858
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	10308769
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	3 to 11
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Fielding, Lillian Antoinette Rita
Registered person unique reference number	RP909717
Telephone number	07807700900
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

After School at the Preschool registered in September 2021 and is based in the London Borough of Havering. The after-school club operates during term time, from 3.10pm until 6pm, Monday to Friday. There are seven members of staff employed in the after-school club. Of these, four staff hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kathryn Irvine

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the after-school club received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with staff and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the after-school club.
- The manager, who is also the nominated individual, showed the inspector around the premises and discussed how they ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector carried out observations of activities.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they like to do at the after-school club.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Parents shared their views of the after-school club with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the after-school club.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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