

Inspection of Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club

C/O Great Bardfield Primary School, Braintree Road, Great Bardfield, Braintree,
Essex CM7 4RN

Inspection date:

29 April 2024

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children are happy to attend this inviting and friendly club. They form close and trusting relationships with staff, who get to know them and their families well. Staff collect all children from their classes. They share key messages with the class teacher about children's day at school. This helps children to settle into the club. They hang up their coats and sort out their belongings before setting off to play. The staff provide children with a good balance of adult-led activities and children's 'choice time'. This helps children to play and explore their interests.

Children have plenty of daily access to fresh air as they play games on the field and playground. They develop their hand-eye coordination as they play tennis with staff. This helps to develop children's large-muscle movements. Children roll out the play dough and squeeze it into shapes as they construct models. These opportunities help to develop children's small-muscle movements. Staff set age-appropriate rules and expectations, which support children's good behaviour and promotes their safety. For example, staff talk to children about suitable activities for their age and how to safely use the outdoor climbing frame. Children are confident and show that they feel safe and secure through their positive behaviour.

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

- This small staff team has clear roles and responsibilities and work well together to offer enjoyable experiences for children. They share important information with each other. They supervise children as they move onto different activities. They communicate as a team, ensuring children are always supported by a familiar adult. The manager works directly with children and staff daily. The manager provides ongoing support and guidance to staff to build on their knowledge and skills. Staff benefit from ongoing supervision sessions to support their well-being.
- Staff support children's speaking skills well. Children share their ideas and thoughts with confidence and happily talk about what they have done at school with their friends. They listen to each other with interest. Staff engage in deep conversations with the children. They use these conversations to get to know about children's experiences and their home lives. This is evident as they talk about their experiences of places they have visited and what they did over the weekend.
- Children understand the importance of following good hygiene routines. They wash their hands before snack. Staff support children to make healthy choices. They offer a balanced diet at meal and snack times. Staff encourage children to try different fruits and vegetables.

- Children benefit from the staff knowing them well. Staff provide opportunities for the children linked to their interests. They recognise when some children have been at school and then at the club and need to relax, so they provide a cosy area where children can sit and watch a film.
- Staff listen to children. They ask children for ideas about the types of activities they would like to do. Staff help children remain engaged by setting challenges. For example, children have a competition to design the longest marble run. They show resilience as they work out the best method to make a loop to slow the marble down.
- Staff are positive role models. They encourage children to use good manners and praise them. This helps to build children's self-esteem.
- Children have access to computer games and the television. Although they do not have access to the internet at the club, staff share safer internet practices with children. They check the time spent on the devices and help children to understand how to keep safe online.
- The manager and staff build strong relationships with parents and carers. Parents report that communication is good. They state the 'care is excellent', and their children feel 'safe, happy and confident'.
- The managers support staff to extend their professional development. Staff complete mandatory training, such as safeguarding and first aid, to help them to update their knowledge about how to keep children safe.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	650030
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10335276
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	4 to 10
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Bardfield After School Club Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910518
Telephone number	01371 811580
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2018

Information about this early years setting

Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club registered in 1997. The club operates Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 7.30am until 8.45am from Monday to Friday, 3pm until 6pm from Monday to Thursday, and from 3pm to 5.30pm on Friday. The club employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four staff hold a qualification at level 3 and two staff hold a qualification at level 2.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Topham

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the club.
- The manager showed the inspector around the club and explained how the play environment is organised.
- The inspector had several discussions with the manager to explore how the club is led and managed. The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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