

Inspection of Smartkidz @ Cherry Hinton

Cherry Hinton Primary School, High Street, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 9HH

Inspection date: 23 May 2024

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

Children enjoy attending this after-school club. They are keen to communicate with staff and their friends and talk openly about their day, as they sit and enjoy a healthy snack together. This contributes to children having a sense of belonging and builds strong relationships between both staff and their peers.

Staff know the children extremely well. The environment reflects children's interests and needs. Children demonstrate confidence in selecting resources to play with and are encouraged to share their ideas about plans for future activities and experiences. Children show an interest in making paper aeroplanes and staff participate enthusiastically, commenting on the success of each child's design. While in the outdoor area, children develop their physical skills as they climb trees and explore woodlands. Staff support children in managing their own risk. Children show sustained levels of focus as they take part in the activities on offer. Staff strive to follow the lead of the children and ensure that they enjoy their time at the club.

Children are respectful and polite. They talk openly about the fun they have at the club, recalling Easter egg hunts and playing with play dough. Staff are excellent role models. Children demonstrate impeccable behaviour as a result of securely embedded routines and consistent expectations.

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

- The manager and the staffing team have a clear vision and ethos for the care they provide at the club. They focus on providing a play-based environment, where staff follow the interests of the children in their care. As a result, all children feel valued as individuals and freely share their ideas and opinions.
- Staff create a calm and welcoming atmosphere, where children feel safe and secure. Younger children benefit from a dedicated key person to help them settle quickly and engage with the activities on offer. Staff gather information about children's likes, dislikes and developmental stage. Subsequently, children quickly form strong attachment with all staff at the club.
- Children's healthy lifestyles are promoted well. They learn about the importance of good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating. Children are provided with healthy meals and develop their independence by making their own sandwiches and serving their own drinks. Staff have a good understanding of all children's dietary requirements and make adaptation in the provision to ensure children remain safe during mealtimes.
- Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities well. They are knowledgeable about the different interventions that are needed to

support individual children in their play. Staff work closely with parents and the host school to provide continuous care for all children. Teaching staff speak highly of the club and comment on the excellent communication between the school and the staff.

- Staff ensure that the premises are safe, secure and suitable for children. Managers regularly assess the layout of the provision and provide additional staff to ensure children are appropriately supervised as they move around the site. Staff deploy themselves well to ensure all children benefit from their positive interactions.
- Parents report positively about the way staff support their children at the club. They feel well informed through both newsletters and conversations during pick up time, which builds their trust in staff. Parents comment that their children are 'well cared for' and thoroughly enjoy their time at the club.
- Leadership and management at the club are strong. Staff have supervision and appraisal meetings regularly to discuss their knowledge and identify training opportunities to further develop their practice. The management team have effective and robust procedures in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff. Staff state that they feel extremely well supported and comment that management go above and beyond to provide continued professional development opportunities.

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	2672616
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10339448
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 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	147
Name of registered person	Smartkidz Play And Learn Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534963
Telephone number	07843 663554
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Smartkidz @ Cherry Hinton registered in 2022. The club is located in Cherry Hinton C of E Primary School in Cambridge. It opens Monday to Friday, after school, during term time. The club opens from 3.10pm to 6pm. It employs three core members of staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Carly Parkinson

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the club.
- Children spoke to the inspector about why they like attending the club and what they like to do.
- The manager and staff showed the inspector the areas used by the club and explained how the club is organised.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.

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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