

Dawn until Dusk Ltd at Shortstown Primary

Shortstown Primary School, Beauvais Square, Shortstown, BEDFORD, MK42 0GS



Inspection date

21 March 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The owners are totally committed to providing a very high quality of provision in the club. They regularly review their practice, taking into account the views of children and parents. They are continually looking for ways to enhance the provision even further.
- Children thrive in the vibrant and welcoming home-from-home environment, skilfully created by staff. They make the best possible use of the available space for a very wide selection of activities.
- Children develop an excellent awareness of e-safety. They take part in a quiz show and design posters to reinforce age-appropriate messages. They are confident to share with staff any concerns that have arisen during the school day.
- Children benefit greatly from the very strong links between the school, the club and their parents. Information is recorded and shared very effectively to provide children with the best possible continuity of care. Parents highly value the flexibility of the club staff to accommodate particular family circumstances and the support that their children receive from the staff.
- Children have extremely good opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They revel in a wide variety of Forest School activities, provided by an appropriately trained member of staff. They learn to use tools, such as saws, safely and they thoroughly enjoy toasting popcorn or marshmallows over an open fire.
- Children are engrossed in their play during their time at the club. They enthusiastically take part in the extensive range of stimulating activities that are available. They describe the club as fantastic and parents comment that their children are always keen to attend.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the resources in the outdoor area even further to provide the best possible experiences for children who prefer to play outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the club manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the club manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the club's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the club.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Val Fane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff demonstrate a secure understanding of the possible signs of abuse. They are fully aware of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. They carry a reminder on the reverse side of their staff lanyards to keep them alert to the possibility of concerns arising. Employment procedures are robust to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Children are supervised well at all times and staff ensure that the premises are safe and secure. These measures all help to ensure that children are safeguarded effectively. Staff all undergo thorough induction when they start work. The manager makes very effective use of regular supervisions to support staff to enhance their practice and identify any training needs. Training is often provided in-house to enable as many as staff to benefit directly from the training. Staff are supported to gain further qualifications. These practices all help staff to feel very valued as part of the team and to provide a very high level of support for the children in their care. The providers and staff work very closely with the school headteacher and the school staff to exchange detailed information about children. This helps to provide excellent continuity of provision for all children attending the club.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know children's interests extremely well and provide toys and activities that capture their interest. Children revel in the innovative activities in the club. Staff plan group activities very effectively so that children of differing ages are all engrossed and extend their learning. Children are enthralled by the arrival of Tiddles, a new-born lamb. Staff differentiate their questions skilfully so that the youngest children are involved and extend their knowledge from the discussion. Children try to predict the age of the lamb and they extend their vocabulary as they learn the names for male and female sheep. They are thrilled to be able to hold the lamb on their laps and describe the feel of the fur. At other times, children self-select confidently from the wide range of toys available. Children gain an extensive selection of skills that they can use in school. The owners have identified that they would like to provide children who like to be outside with an even wider range of sensory activities in the mud kitchen.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children develop extremely close relationships with their key person and with other staff. They form close friendships with other children of their own age and with older children. The older children are sensitive to the needs of the younger ones when they are playing together and help them to use equipment, such as technology toys. Children behave extremely well, because staff are excellent role models. They use very effective strategies, tailored to each child's individual needs, to support positive behaviour. They share strategies with parents to help to provide some consistency for children when they are at home. Children take it in turns to be the health and safety monitor for the day. This helps to reinforce their excellent understanding of good safety and hygiene practices. Children enthusiastically grow their own fruit and vegetables and eat them as part of their healthy tea menu.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477047
Local authority	Bedford Borough
Inspection number	972160
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	226
Name of provider	Dawn Until Dusk Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07982914784

Dawn until Dusk Ltd at Shortstown Primary was registered in 2013. The club employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one with an early years degree. The club opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 8.45am and from 3.20pm until 6pm during the school term. A holiday club operates from 8am to 6pm during school holidays.

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