

Inspection of Cranberry Whizz Kids

Cranberry Academy, Cranberry Lane, Alsager, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 2LE

Inspection date:

4 August 2025

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Met

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children contribute to the planning of activities in the club. Staff ask for children's ideas and incorporate their preferences into the programme of play. Children share their thoughts in an assertive, yet polite, manner. This democratic way to plan and organise the club helps children to feel valued and enthuses them. This is a busy, stimulating and fun club. Children enjoy being creative as they make kites from craft materials. They run and exert themselves as they attempt to fly their kites in the spacious outdoor area. During the school holidays, staff plan regular trips, such as outings to museums, parks and nature walks. These trips and outings extend and enrich children's experiences. Children speak with great enthusiasm about an upcoming bowling trip, illustrating how they look forward to the fun and exciting programme of play.

Staff encourage team games to bring everyone together and children enjoy each other's company. These collective games are a constructive way for children to get to know each other. They laugh and shout to celebrate one another's achievements. Friendships flourish in this social setting. Staff actively encourage children to develop their talents. For instance, children who are learning to play instruments deliver a performance of their musical talents to their friends. This is done in a supportive and respectful way, and children show increasing confidence. Staff and friends cheer and clap at the end of the performance, helping to build children's self-esteem and emotional resilience. Children of different ages mix together and enjoy each other's company. Older children are helpful, kind and caring towards their younger friends. This is a happy club and all children who attend are settled and content.

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

- Staff carefully check equipment and toys prior to children's play. They implement sensible measures to protect children. For example, after recent rain, staff deem some areas of the outdoor field too slippery for children to play safely. They restrict access to these areas to minimise the risk of tripping and injury. Staff are vigilant and children remain safe.
- The club has operated for a number of years. Staff and leaders have established a strong reputation within the local community. This reputation is well deserved because experienced staff and leaders offer children and families high-quality care.
- Parents compliment staff about the welcoming and friendly environment they create. They comment their children love attending and often do not wish to leave at the end of the day. Furthermore, staff have established sound partnerships with other professionals, such as local school teachers, to promote

consistency for children.

- Children enjoy taking responsibility for themselves. For instance, they move freely around the club choosing what to play with. Children help to prepare the table for mealtimes and tidy away their games after use, without prompting. They are self-assured and confidently independent.
- Exploring nature is an integral part of the club's ethos. Children enjoy playing in a large and well-equipped forest area, located within the host school's grounds. Staff plan daily outdoor play for children in nature, which promotes children's health.
- Staff provide children with a balance between warm professional affection coupled with energy and humour. To illustrate, sometimes children seek emotional reassurance, and staff quickly offer them calm and sensitive cuddles. At other times, children giggle and laugh alongside lively and vibrant staff. Children relish their time spent in this club and benefit from nurturing positive relationships with staff.
- Leaders pride themselves on offering an inclusive service. They adapt their environment and practice to meet children's different needs and abilities. Leaders ensure that everyone is welcome and included.
- Staff morale and teamwork is a notable strength in the club. Leaders invest in staff's well-being. For instance, they have recently organised a spa trip to reward staff for their hard work. In turn, children benefit from staff who are passionate, happy and committed.
- Leaders and staff often reflect on their practice. They know what they do well. Leaders and staff have plans to develop and improve the club further.

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	305436
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10399138
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 10
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	124
Name of registered person	Kirsten Forster & Susan Stanway Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP905899
Telephone number	01270 879 282
Date of previous inspection	21 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

Cranberry Whizz Kids registered in 1997. It is independently run and is located in Stoke-on-Trent. The club employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six staff hold an appropriate qualification at level 3. It opens from Monday to Friday, during school term time. Sessions are from 7.30am until 9am and from 3pm until 6pm. In addition, the club opens during school holidays, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and considered their views and comments.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspector took account of written comments from parents.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the club, indoors and outdoors, and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the 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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