

Inspection of Challengers Winchester Playscheme

Lanterns Nursery School, Berewecke Road, Winchester SO22 6AJ

Inspection date:

20 September 2025

**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

Leaders have created a fun and stimulating environment for all children. They provide valuable opportunities for children to access play in a highly supportive environment that is tailored to their individual needs. Children arrive happily. They form positive relationships with attentive staff, who greet children and families warmly on arrival. This helps children to feel safe and secure and to separate with ease from their parents and carers. Children develop confidence and benefit from well-planned experiences that promote their well-being.

Children thoroughly enjoy the variety of activities and experiences on offer. Staff ensure that all children have opportunities to participate in activities. For example, staff have created a music wall which is accessible to children who use wheelchairs. Additionally, staff support children to use a hand-over-hand technique to support children to play the instruments. Children listen carefully to the different sounds. These experiences help children to develop listening and attention skills and to feel included.

Staff are good role models for children. They are kind, caring and use respectful language, such as 'please' and 'thank you'. Staff provide children with clear expectations for their behaviour. This helps children to know what is expected of them. As a result, children are well mannered and follow the rules and routines in the setting.

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

- Leaders are committed to providing high-quality care and experiences for all children. They know children in their care well and tailor the experiences to children's individual needs and interests. Leaders ensure that children have access to a wide range of activities by making effective use of available funding. For example, they provide bubble resources to support children's sensory needs and popular character toys to help children to engage in their play.
- Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. Children benefit from cooking activities with visiting chefs, which provide hands-on experiences of preparing and tasting a variety of foods. This supports children's understanding of healthy eating and helps them to develop life skills. Furthermore, children build their confidence and independence through engaging experiences.
- Children behave extremely well. They play alongside each other cooperatively. For example, small groups of children build with construction resources on a mat. They share the resources and talk about what they are building. Staff provide designated calm spaces where children can go and relax, such as sensory areas. Children enjoy observing bubbles changing colours in a sensory

tube and listen to the gentle sounds. This helps to provide a calm environment for children.

- Staff encourage all children to participate in a broad range of activities which support their physical development. For example, children roll large hoops back and forth, experimenting with speed and distance. This encourages cooperation as they play with others. Children benefit from using the soft-play area, where they can climb, balance and explore in a safe and stimulating environment. This helps children to develop gross motor movements, strength and coordination through their play. Additionally, they build confidence in managing and taking risks.
- Leaders support staff very well. They ensure that staff have termly supervision sessions, which help to identify good practice and areas for further support. Staff complete mandatory training linked to legislation and further training, such as strategies to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Furthermore, leaders encourage staff to access relevant training of interest. They place a strong focus on supporting staff's well-being. For example, the provision has a designated well-being team to support staff's personal needs, which they can access at any time. These strategies help staff to be confident in their roles, feel valued and provides a healthy working environment.
- Leaders are committed to ensuring the suitability of staff to work with children. They have a robust recruitment and vetting process in place. This helps to keep children safe and secure. Children are closely monitored by staff at all times. Additionally, children with complex needs benefit from a designated member of staff to support them. This helps children to feel secure and build trusted relationships.
- Staff have established strong partnerships with parents. Parents of children with SEND speak positively about the difference the setting makes to children's well-being and inclusion. Furthermore, they highlight the positive impact the support has had on their families' lives. Staff's consistent and robust routines ensure that children's individual needs are met, such as handing over medication and healthcare discussions. These routines help parents to feel reassured that their children are well looked after.

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	2742175
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10407796
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	5 to 12
Total number of places	10
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Disability Challengers
Registered person unique reference number	RP905373
Telephone number	07815 553 212
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Challengers Winchester Playscheme registered in 2023. It is independently run and operates from Lanterns Nursery School, Winchester. The setting opens during term time, once a month on a Saturday, from 10am until 3pm. During half-term holidays, Easter holidays and the summer holidays, it opens Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm. The setting employs nine members of staff. Of these, two staff hold relevant qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Loretta Murphy

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the setting and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector observed activities and interactions, inside and outdoors. She spoke to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with leaders about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents and took their views into consideration in her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the setting.

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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