

Inspection of Happy Hours Day Nursery @ Biddulph

Happy Hours Day Nursery, Lawton Street, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire ST8 6EX

Inspection date: 9 May 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this inviting nursery. Welcoming staff greet children and parents as they enter. There is a strong focus on supporting children's communication and language, which is evident in the buzz of chatter around the nursery. Staff make good use of songs and stories to encourage children to practise speaking. Staff are animated storytellers and add interest with different voices and tones. This ignites the children's curiosity, and they engage and listen. Staff use guidance and assessment tools to identify any gaps in children's language. They use this information to plan activities and make referrals to other professionals. This helps children to get the early and ongoing support they might need.

Children are physically active. Staff support young babies to practise their walking. There is lots of space for them to move freely and explore. Older children enjoy sports lessons and exercise. Staff regularly praise children and their hard work. As a result, children are growing in confidence and building their self-esteem. Staff know the children very well and they plan precisely for their learning. They provide children with a wide range of activities and resources that consistently motivate them to play and learn. All children, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning from their various starting points.

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

- The manager has clear intentions for children's learning. There is a rich and varied curriculum that builds on what children already know and can do. Staff gather valuable information from parents about children that helps them to understand their likes and interests. They use this knowledge to focus activities and lead the children's learning. As a result, children show a positive attitude to learning and are keen to know more. However, sometimes during questioning, staff do not extend and challenge children's learning even further. This means some children do not make the highest progress they are capable of.
- Leaders are passionate about providing children with the best early years experience that supports their future learning. Funding is used effectively to help close any gaps in children's knowledge. Leaders consider how all children can participate in new activities, such as trips to the seaside. This supports all children to broaden their knowledge of the world around them.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff give children choices about what they would like to do next. Activities are interesting and stimulating. However, sometimes, when planning and setting up an activity, staff do not fully consider how they can improve children's engagement and make it accessible for everyone. For example, children squeeze around a small table to play with puppets and listen to a story. They begin to argue and push as they try to find

space. As a result, some children move away and lose interest.

- Staff say that they feel well supported in their roles, and morale is good. They receive regular supervision and feedback from the manager. There is a focus on their well-being. Staff work well as a team. They deploy themselves effectively to keep children safe, including during mealtimes and when children are playing outside. Staff regularly complete head counts as children move around the nursery, which ensures they are accounted for. Older children enjoy joining in with the counting. Such practice ensures children learn and play in a happy, safe environment.
- Staff get to know the children and their families very well. Leaders pride themselves on building long and trusting relationships from their very first meeting. Graduated and tailored settling-in sessions support children to feel secure in their new environment. Children approach staff for cuddles, and staff always respond with warmth and kindness. This helps to build a nurturing, home-from-home ethos in the nursery.
- Mealtimes are sociable. Children from different age groups join together in a dining room to eat and chat. Children are learning independence as they pour their own water from a jug and begin to feed themselves. Staff praise their efforts and prompt the use of 'please' and 'thank you'. Staff set children clear boundaries and expectations for behaviour. Consequently, children are learning good table manners and are being well prepared for their next stage in education.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on staff's teaching practice so that they understand how to extend and challenge children's learning even further
- enhance the planning and organisation of some activities so that all children can easily participate.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2529438
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10344950
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 12
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	134
Name of registered person	Happy Hours Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP909928
Telephone number	01782 516564
Date of previous inspection	18 January 2022

Information about this early years setting

Happy Hours Day Nursery @ Biddulph registered in 2019. The nursery operates Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The nursery employs 20 members of staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Katie Rudge

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.

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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