

Inspection of Highfield Hoppers Ltd

Alsager Highfields Cp School, Fairview Avenue, Alsager, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 2NW

Inspection date: 8 August 2025

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

The programme of learning offered is broad and fun and supports children's thirst to learn. Staff deliver sessions called 'forest fun' to teach children about nature. For instance, with close supervision, children enjoy picking wild berries and talk about how fruit grows. Staff discuss with children how and why bees and wasps pollinate. Through their curiosity and intrigue, coupled with quality teaching, children develop a sound understanding of the world around them. Staff recognise their role as teachers and their participation in children's play is focused and targeted. They make suggestions to guide and extend learning. For instance, during role play, staff encourage children to make five cups of tea and share their imaginary cake 'equally and fairly' among their friends. Children develop their mathematical counting and numeracy skills through this largely imaginative game.

Children show maturity in their social skills as they begin to negotiate with each other and play cooperatively. For example, staff encourage children to take turns during a game of hide and seek. They work as a team to find their friends and show fairness and respect in their playful interactions. Staff join in this game and children relish the excitement and enjoyment this cooperative play offers. Staff promote children's good health and plan activities to enhance children's physical activity. Children have frequent opportunities to play outdoors and enjoy daily fresh air and exercise. Trips to local parks and walks to the nearby amenities extend children's physical movement. Furthermore, children enjoy healthy and nutritious breakfasts and snacks. Children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating and are eager to try new foods, such as blueberries, for the first time. Children who attend this setting are supported to be happy, curious, resilient and make good all-round progress.

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

- Routines are consistently implemented by staff and well understood by children of all ages. Everyone knows what to do and what is expected of them. As such, the setting runs smoothly and day-to-day tasks are completed with ease. Children are cooperative, helpful and polite.
- Relationships shared between children and staff are based on a secure foundation of respect and kindness. Staff lavish children with plenty of praise and encouragement, which successfully builds their confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff plan a wide range of high-quality activities and games. Each activity has clear purpose and intent, to build on what children already know and can do. This means children receive increasing levels of challenge in their play and make good progress.
- Every child's uniqueness is celebrated in this truly inclusive setting. Staff adapt and carefully differentiate their practice to meet children's differing needs and

abilities, and everyone is supported to flourish and reach their full potential.

- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff use many ways to communicate with parents. For instance, they share updates and photos about children's experiences securely online. Detailed verbal discussions are valued by both staff and parents to share information about children's ever-changing care needs. Effective and open communication helps to ensure parents are kept up to date and promotes consistency for children.
- Staff continually talk to children and ask interesting questions. They support older children to engage in back-and-forth conversations, sharing their opinions and ideas. Younger children hear plenty of new words in this language-rich environment, and their emerging language skills are equally well supported.
- Families benefit from the expertise of experienced and suitably qualified leaders and managers, who strive to create a happy and safe space for children. Leaders and staff meet collectively in productive staff meetings. Together, they frequently reflect on the quality of the provision and identify areas to develop. This collaborative self-evaluation works well to drive improvements and benefits the children and families who attend.
- Staff and leaders recognise the value and importance of ongoing training. They engage in some professional development. However, this is not always targeted in areas that would most benefit their practice and, therefore, have the greatest impact on children.
- Staff are enthusiastic teachers, and their energy successfully promotes children's enjoyment in learning. However, sometimes, staff distract children with new tasks before their play concludes. This occasionally interrupts children's deep focus and concentration.

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:

- extend the programme of professional development to enhance staff's skills even more, in order to impact on outcomes for children
- help staff to understand how to minimise distractions to ensure children have opportunity to fully focus and engage in sustained concentration.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY338686
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10399032
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	2 to 11
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	93
Name of registered person	Highfields Hoppers Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP526406
Telephone number	01270 878205
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

Highfield Hoppers Ltd registered in 2006. The setting employs 11 members of childcare staff, eight of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The manager holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6. The setting opens Monday to Friday and sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The setting provides government funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The provider and inspector completed a learning walk. They discussed how the environment is organised and how the curriculum is designed.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and considered their views and comments.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children, indoors and outdoors, and considered the impact of teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector took account of parents' comments.
- 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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