

Inspection of Sawtry Day Nursery

Sawtry Village Academy, Fen Lane, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 5TQ

Inspection date:

3 June 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this outstanding nursery. Staff plan exciting and meaningful learning opportunities for children that spark their creativity and curiosity. Children are eager to participate in group activities and demonstrate exceptional standards of concentration and focus during their learning. Babies thoroughly enjoy exploring the ice and water, finding different sea creature toys and learning new words to extend their already excellent vocabulary. Older children use coloured water to experiment with mixing colours. Staff encourage them to make predictions and test out their own theories as they mix and explore. Children's positive attitudes to learning impact on the outstanding progress and development they make.

Children's behaviour is exceptional. They understand the expectations of staff and the rules in place. From a young age, children learn to wait, listen and be kind to their peers. They share resources and learn to take turns very well. Babies play together during group activities and older children learn how to be calm and gentle with younger peers, demonstrating compassion. Furthermore, staff teach children about the consequences of their actions and how to keep themselves and others safe. Children wait their turn on the climbing frame, remembering how they could get injured if someone falls. When building and carrying large pieces of wood, staff talk to children about the weight of the wood and how it could hurt someone. They give reminders about safety and children demonstrate this well-embedded knowledge and thorough understanding during their play.

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

- Strong relationships and attachments build the foundation for children's learning. Staff take time to meet every family before children start and gather in-depth information about children's learning and development. Frequent, short visits, prior to starting, help children to gain trust and understanding as well as develop a strong bond with their new key person. In addition, staff understand the difficulties of transitions within the nursery and go above and beyond to support children as they move rooms. These close relationships and strong focus on well-being, help children to build trust and feel safe, resulting in confident and extremely happy and well-settled children.
- Staff's interactions are of the highest quality throughout the nursery. Staff use skilful questioning techniques, encouraging children to think critically and share their own ideas. They give children time to think and respond and listen carefully. Staff value children's input and they encourage children to join in. This helps children to feel valued and builds high levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable. Children with special educational

needs and/or disabilities are extremely well supported and additional needs are identified early on in a child's journey. Referrals are made swiftly, and children receive the highest standard of intervention and additional help from other professionals. Additionally, staff prioritise parent and professional relationships, ensuring everyone is kept up to date and has an excellent understanding of children's development. In preparation for school, staff ensure children are surrounded by the best possible support to provide seamless transitions into reception class.

- Staff are thoughtful about daily routines and recognise when children are engrossed in their learning. They are careful not to disrupt children's progress, being flexible and giving children time to conclude their learning before sitting down for mealtimes or going outdoors. This demonstrates the highly skilled teaching throughout the nursery and the excellent consideration staff give to children's learning.
- Physical development is supported from a young age and children are provided with a safe environment to begin walking and climbing. As children become more able, they explore more challenging learning opportunities such as riding bikes and using large materials for building. The environment is well planned, developing children's core strength and balance as they negotiate obstacles and climb hills.
- Language development is a high priority. Young children demonstrate their excellent communication skills as they use single words to make themselves heard. Singing and reading is used throughout the day to introduce a varied vocabulary and older children engage in in-depth conversations, extending their sentences and conversational skills to an extremely high standard.
- In addition to the excellent recruitment processes in place, the management team has implemented a robust induction programme. The team works closely with staff during the first few weeks to ensure they have a good understanding of the nursery's policies and procedures. Furthermore, training needs are identified immediately, and swift action is taken to ensure staff gain the essential knowledge and skills they need. The support for staff gaining additional qualifications and training is exceptional. The management team always encourages and supports staff to gain new skills and extend their knowledge, resulting in highly skilled and knowledgeable teachers.

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	221580
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10392323
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 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	72
Name of registered person	Sawtry Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902206
Telephone number	01487 832501
Date of previous inspection	15 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

Sawtry Day Nursery registered in 1993. The nursery is open Monday to Friday all year round from 7.45am until 6pm. There are 19 members of staff. Of these, 16 hold a relevant childcare qualification at level 2 or above. The nursery provides government funded early education for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Vikki Reynolds

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.

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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