

Inspection of Smarties Nursery

Smarties Nursery, Field Top Road, Brighouse HD6 3XB

Inspection date:

12 November 2024

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

Staff's expert teaching and inventive educational programmes are inspired by their wealth of qualifications, outstanding mentoring from leaders and extensive professional development opportunities. Staff methodically plan a limitless curriculum that motivates children to the highest level. There is a strong focus on outdoor learning. This ignites children's sense of awe and wonder of the world. It is also particularly beneficial to children who have limited access to outside space and those who prefer to play outdoors.

During their time in nursery, children develop a wealth of new knowledge and skills in readiness for school. Staff skilfully weave in early mathematics, and older children demonstrate exceptional language, self-care skills and behaviour. They play collaboratively and are engrossed in captivating forest school activities. While making a fire, children take part in tasks that further develop their already impressive hand-eye coordination. For example, they use steel and flint to create sparks and prune branches and stems with secateurs.

Staff show warmth and affection towards children, who are excited to attend. They create a joyful and nurturing environment. This helps children to settle quickly, develop the highest levels of confidence and feel happy, safe and secure. Babies and younger children love snuggling up to their key person for a story and enjoy highly engaging and attentive care routines. Staff provide a wealth of enticing tactile media and materials that facilitate babies' and young children's fascinations in using all of their senses to explore and investigate.

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

- Staff have an in-depth understanding of each child, how they learn and their next steps in learning. They work tirelessly with other professionals and parents to help children to catch up in their development. For example, key staff plan communication interventions that benefit all children. Staff share activity ideas, rhymes and a nursery library with parents and model storytelling in videos. Children take home the nursery bear and monkey, accompanied by a bedtime story and bag of belongings.
- Staff enrich children's experiences through a wide range of extra-curricular activities, outings and visitors. For example, they support children to take part in experiments in a science lab, meet emergency service personnel and take part in interactive animal workshops. All age groups of children embark on exciting adventures locally and those which require a bus or train ride.
- Staff promote children's communication skills wonderfully. They create a language-rich environment and carefully select books for cosy story areas. Even babies visit the local library. Staff bring stories to life with exciting props and link

displays, activities and themes to children's favourite stories. Staff sing spontaneously and expose children to a whole genre of music.

- Staff promote children's physical development superbly. Babies crawl over gently sloping soft blocks and toddlers propel themselves on sit-and-ride toys. Young children negotiate the climbing cube and walk across planks and tree stumps. Children put on safety helmets before whizzing around on balance bicycles. Older children develop astounding balance and coordination as they learn to walk across a slackline.
- Staff are excellent role models. They praise children constantly and instil important social skills, such as respect and kindness. Younger children greet one another during the 'welcome' song. Older children make 'potions' together and follow important safety instructions while sitting around the fire drinking hot chocolate. Children beam with pride when they receive a 'golden acorn' for their 'fantastic' use of the secateurs.
- Staff work in excellent partnership with parents. They share expansive information and plan activity sessions and many events, such as first-aid training and children's graduation. Staff and parents help young children to transition away from their dummy. For example, they encourage children to place these in bags on the 'dummy tree' for the 'fairies' to take.
- Staff provide extensive opportunities for children to recognise their own and others' uniqueness. They create 'family' boards and encourage older children to create portraits and compare the different homes they live in. Children observe the richness of diversity in resources, and parents share their knowledge and artefacts as children learn about multiculturalism. Children readily access their 'special' left-handed scissors.
- Staff promote children's emotional well-being to the highest level. They meticulously plan children's transitions with parents as children start and move through the nursery. Consequently, children have secure attachments to staff. Staff create a calm, homely and harmonious environment, introducing yoga, meditation, 'spa' sessions and 'calm' dens.
- Children have an excellent diet and learn where healthy food comes from. Staff teach them how to make vegetable soup during forest school sessions and transfer potatoes from the polytunnel to the nursery garden to grow. Children make potato wedges in the air fryer.

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	EY501506
Local authority	Calderdale
Inspection number	10364279
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	111
Name of registered person	Smarties Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535496
Telephone number	01484 728050
Date of previous inspection	17 January 2019

Information about this early years setting

Smarties Nursery re-registered in 2016 following a change to the legal entity of the nursery. It is located in Calderdale. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications: 10 at level 3, one at level 4, one at level 5, three at level 6 and one member of staff who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The provider offers government funded childcare and receives specific funding for disadvantaged children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachel Ayo

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a learning walk with two of the managers from the leadership team. This helped her to understand how staff, the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of education, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with one of the managers.
- The inspector spoke with staff, children and parents.
- The inspector held discussions with the leadership team throughout the inspection and spoke with the nominated individual for the organisation.
- The inspector viewed various documents, including that which confirmed the suitability of staff.

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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