

The Croft at Lyme Drive

Lyme Drive, Parklands, Stoke On Trent, ST4 6NW



Inspection date	26 May 2015
Previous inspection date	26 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff protect children effectively because they have good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and the signs of abuse. Additionally, they have a thorough understanding of what to do in the event of a concern about a child's welfare.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff have the skills and knowledge to identify gaps in children's learning and when to seek early help from other professionals. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are very well supported.
- Staff are caring and children form strong and appropriate relationships with them. As a result, children feel safe and secure in their care. This develops their emotional well-being.
- Relationships with parents are strong. Staff encourage parents to contribute to their child's assessments and regularly share information about how children are progressing. They also share ideas with parents about how learning can be further enhanced at home.
- Leaders and managers constantly reflect on the quality of the setting. The views of children, parents and staff contribute to the drive for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, children are distracted from listening to, and concentrating on, adult-led activities, due to other activities taking place in the same vicinity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make sure children are able to listen and concentrate without distraction during adult-led activities, for example, by reviewing the organisation of other activities that take place nearby and at the same time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures, risk assessments and self-evaluation.
- The inspector discussed the children's progress with their key persons.
- The inspector viewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff working with children.
- The inspector held discussions with the deputy manager, assistant manager and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities, both indoors and outside, and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff are committed to, and very enthusiastic about, their work. Staff qualifications have a positive impact on children's learning. Staff use effective systems to observe children and assess and check their progress. Children can help themselves to a good range of toys and activities. Staff plan challenging and stimulating activities that support children's interests and motivate them to continue learning. They promote the prime areas of learning well. Children's mathematical skills are developed as staff encourage them to count during water play and daily routines. Staff support children's learning of letters and sounds through fun activities and story sessions. Children's knowledge of the world is promoted as they care for the ducklings hatched in the nursery. However, the organisation of adult-led activities are not always carefully considered. This means that, on occasion, children's listening and concentration skills are not fully developed because they are distracted by other things happening nearby. That said, children gain the skills they need to support their future learning and their eventual move on to school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children and babies enjoy their time in the stimulating outdoor play area, where they benefit from fresh air and exercise. They explore natural materials and enjoy sand and water play, taking turns and sharing resources. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are encouraged to become independent. Older children learn to put on their own coats and babies are encouraged to feed themselves. Children are encouraged to develop a 'have a go' attitude. This supports them to develop a positive approach to learning, in readiness for school. They are served appetising snacks and meals that are freshly prepared and include a variety of vegetables and fruit. Staff introduce conversations about food that is healthy or not so healthy. Staff build strong bonds with children through well-organised settling-in sessions, which are appreciated by parents. Staff promote and reflect cultural and religious diversity through involving children and their families in organised activities and events.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Leadership is strong. Managers have a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The nursery's robust recruitment procedures check that staff are suitable for their role. Managers support staff's professional development through appraisals, peer reviews and checking on the effectiveness of activities and outcomes for children. Staff are supported to attend a variety of training. They enthusiastically put into practice ideas gained from training and personal research. This helps them to deliver good quality teaching and improve the learning outcomes for children of all ages. Parents appreciate the guidance given to support children's learning at home. They particularly praise the caring atmosphere. Parents comment, 'Staff ensure the children are at the heart of everything they do.'

Setting details

Unique reference number	260348
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	864634
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	59
Number of children on roll	84
Name of provider	Croft Nursery School Limited
Date of previous inspection	26 August 2011
Telephone number	01782 911314

The Croft at Lyme Drive was registered in 2010. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. All of these hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 to level 6. The nursery opens all year round from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

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