

The Willows Daycare

The Willows Children's Centre, Magdalene Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9UX



Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

24 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- As a result of the management team's commitment to training, practitioners have an extremely secure knowledge of how children learn. Teaching strategies are excellent and the quality of teaching is exemplary. Consequently, children are keen, excited and motivated to learn. Therefore, they consistently make rapid progress in their learning.
- Children flourish in the welcoming, vibrant and stimulating learning environments both indoors and outdoors. The presentation of an abundance of high-quality resources and activities effectively support children in their excellent progress.
- Practitioners' assessments of children's learning are extremely prompt and accurate. Any gaps in children's achievements are quickly identified and children are superbly prepared in readiness for school. Key persons value, and make excellent use of, parental contributions to further support children's development.
- Safeguarding children is given extremely high priority by both the management team and practitioners. Management ensure that practitioners regularly update their safeguarding knowledge through training. Rigorous risk assessments are carried out to ensure children play in a very safe environment.
- Practitioners highly value and respect each child within the nursery as a unique individual. Children are able to reach high levels of achievement because key persons understand their specific set of needs and address them through warm, responsive interaction. As a result, children form extremely close relationships with their key person.
- Partnerships with parents and others are extremely secure. Parents are encouraged to play a very active role in their children's learning. They borrow reading books and other resources from the nursery to share with their children at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the already superb provision for celebrating children's achievements with parents, for example, by providing a special place where children can display models or pieces of art work they have made during the day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all three rooms within the nursery and the nursery garden.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, the duty manager, a director, the special educational needs coordinator, practitioners and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records, which included children's details, practitioner information, accident and medication records, written policies, information about planning and assessment and a selection of other relevant and well-presented documentation.
- The inspector saw evidence of the checks used to assess and confirm the suitability of all adults working with young children.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the manager to observe and discuss the quality of teaching.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the time of the inspection and through written comments in children's development records.

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection findings

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

Practitioners are highly motivated and knowledgeable. They constantly maximise every opportunity to support and challenge every child to make superb progress. Practitioners understand how to adapt activities and teaching techniques to meet children's individual needs. For example, key persons vary interventions, use a range of language and signing and have clear expectations for each child. Children's early literacy and mathematical skills are superbly promoted throughout the nursery. For example, children have excellent opportunities to develop handwriting skills and use counting in everyday activities. Key persons use their accurate and precise observations for future planning. At present the nursery does not have a special place where children can display models and work to show their parents at the end of the day. Management recognise that this would further enhance the already superb celebration of children's achievements.

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

Key persons liaise effectively with parents during children's early experiences of nursery life. This detailed process of information sharing begins a meaningful, two-way dialogue that supports children throughout their time at nursery. As a result, children are settled, relaxed and happy during their nursery life. Key persons manage all children's individual needs superbly. Individual caring and nurturing support is offered to children with any additional needs. Children's independence is superbly supported as practitioners take time to present and prepare the environment. Consequently, children quickly become proficient at managing their own needs and guiding their learning. Practitioners manage children's behaviour extremely positively. Consequently, children understand the nursery's rules and follow them proficiently. Practitioners provide children with a wealth of exploratory experiences outdoors. For example, they hunt for bugs and insects in the natural areas. The recent addition of a stage area, enables children to perform to their friends, enhancing their self-confidence and desire to express themselves creatively.

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

The nursery directors support the managers and practitioners superbly. The quality of the nursery's leadership is inspirational. Managers and practitioners are extremely knowledgeable about their roles within the nursery. As a result, every aspect of the provision runs proficiently. The whole team take responsibility for the uncompromising drive to improve and maintain the highest levels of achievement for all children. Management's extremely detailed written policies are followed proficiently and swiftly, immediately a safeguarding concern arises. Practitioners understand the safeguarding policy. For example, they understand how to use the whistle-blowing policy if needed. Practitioners constantly update and improve upon their first-rate knowledge through the nursery's efficient programme of professional development. Training is given high priority, which results in a well-qualified and extremely knowledgeable team of practitioners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY337463
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1015717
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	148
Name of provider	The Willows Day Care Ltd
Date of previous inspection	24 June 2010
Telephone number	01473601327

The Willows Daycare was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 20 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including four practitioners with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 49 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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