

Play Away Day Nursery

Langdale Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5PY



Inspection date

28 August 2015

Previous inspection date

26 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff provide first-class support to extend children's fascinations. They know children exceedingly well and they understand precisely how to motivate them. Children seek staff to share their learning because they know they give them support and inspiration.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported exceptionally well. The special educational needs coordinator works closely with staff, parents and external agencies to combine their expert knowledge. As a result, the unique needs of each child are met and children make very good progress from their starting points.
- Pre-school children are particularly well prepared for their move to school. This is because they are provided with high-quality experiences and challenging expectations that build on their prior learning. For example, pre-school children learn to write for a purpose during their play.
- Children's emotional well-being is significantly enhanced because staff give utmost priority to developing warm and nurturing relationships with them. As a result, children are extremely confident and self-assured from an early age.
- Children are highly independent because staff use frequent opportunities to inspire them to do things for themselves. Staff make the most of daily routines and unexpected occurrences, so that they become meaningful learning experiences.
- The leadership team is inspirational. Managers have a whole-team approach, combining the views and needs of staff, children and parents. This results in a high level of engagement and a shared vision to improve the already outstanding service.
- Managers and staff have a superb understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are particularly knowledgeable about how to safeguard children. Robust policies and procedures are in place to help to keep them safe.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. The qualifications, training and experience of staff significantly contributes to the excellent progress that children make.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the strong emphasis on staff's development by providing even more opportunities for staff to share knowledge and skills to continuously enhance the already outstanding practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff and managers.
- The inspector observed staff engage in a range of activities and care routines with the children.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and managers.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with children, including members of the children's committee.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with a manager.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation with managers and staff.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain their views.

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

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

Staff gather comprehensive information from parents when children begin which is used to accurately assess their starting points. Staff have a superb understanding of how to observe and assess children to plan experiences for their individual next steps in learning. Staff follow children's interests and provide very stimulating experiences for them. They respond rapidly when children show early signs of losing concentration. Consequently, children of all ages are highly engaged. Children are particularly well supported for their next stages in development. Staff understand child development and they communicate effectively, so that they know what is expected at the next stage. Children learn to enjoy books from being babies. This is because there is a wealth of inviting opportunities to enjoy books both independently and with adults. Staff consistently focus on children's speech development by using a variety of highly effective ways to support their communication and language skills.

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

Children settle quickly when they begin to attend and during times of change at the nursery. This is because staff value the importance of developing a strong sense of belonging, so that children continuously feel stable, nurtured and loved. Children's behaviour is excellent for their ages. They are highly responsive to the staff who know how to get the best out of them. Staff are good role models and children learn to take turns, respect others and use very good manners. Children are enthusiastic during care routines because they have learnt to become independent, relative to their ages and stages of development. They understand why it is important to wash their hands and eat healthily. Children have good physical skills from an early age. Babies show confidence in crawling, climbing and balancing. Older children grow to become highly active explorers who can manage risks well. This is good support for their physical well-being.

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

Partnerships with parents are superb. They comment that the managers and staff are exceptionally dedicated to each individual child. They work closely with parents and there is a shared ownership of children's learning. Clear communication through a range of highly successful methods results in parents feeling highly involved and well supported by the nursery. Managers are committed to nurturing staff through regular supervision and coaching. This strong emphasis on staff's development is crucial to the continued development of the nursery. Managers regularly track children's progress. They work alongside staff to support children to make even better progress. Any gaps in learning are promptly identified and with the support of parents, managers engage external agencies when needed. Careful analysis of the progress of groups, meticulous self-evaluation and rigorous development planning significantly enhances the pace of improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	502871
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	869179
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	87
Number of children on roll	129
Name of provider	Grainne Mary McGovern-Scott
Date of previous inspection	26 October 2011
Telephone number	01928 565 351

Play Away Day Nursery was registered in 2001. The nursery employs 26 members of childcare staff. Of these, 20 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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