

Wise Owl Nursery

143 Ash Bank Road, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST2 9DX



Inspection date

15 June 2015

Previous inspection date

27 June 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Teaching is good. Staff are well trained and focus on supporting children's learning throughout the day. They know the children well and use clear assessments to identify areas in which children need additional support.
- Activities linked to themes capture children's imagination. They are highly motivated learners with very good concentration skills. Older children make particularly good progress in their literacy skills and in their knowledge of the world and other cultures. They are well prepared for the move on to school.
- Inside and outside areas are well resourced. The atmosphere is calm and conducive to learning. Children develop an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy and why rules are required.
- The management team has a very strong drive to improve the nursery. They have made significant improvements to staff's teaching and children's learning since the last inspection. A well-organised professional development programme ensures staff are constantly enhancing their skills.
- All staff, parents and professional representatives are included in the evaluation of the nursery, identifying its strengths and areas for improvement. This means that plans for change are comprehensive and well-thought through.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff ensure parents are well informed about their child's progress and are provided with resources which support them to carry on with the learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always encouraged to develop their own ideas about how to manage problems, so that they increase their ability to think critically and manage difficulties.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's abilities to understand how to manage problems through discussion and experimentation, for example, by making sure staff use questions that challenge children to think and provide the support needed for children to develop solutions for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playrooms and outside play area.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager of the setting and the owner of the setting.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation and a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability checks and qualifications for staff working with the children.
- The inspector took account of the nursery's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Sarah Rhodes

Inspection findings

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

The staff are well motivated and use a range of teaching methods to enthuse the children. They recognise children's interests and use these to plan activities. Children's concentration and communication skills are well supported because staff provide praise for their efforts, a commentary on what they are doing and introduce new words. Children with English as an additional language are well supported to make connections between their home language and English. Staff use every opportunity to reinforce mathematical language. Older children are developing a growing confidence in telling the time and identify three dimensional shapes, such as pyramids. More able children are encouraged to do simple calculations, such as adding one more onto a group. However, staff use questioning less often to support children to problem solve generally. This means children have fewer opportunities to think through problems for themselves and come up with their own solution. Toddler and pre-school children are very physically active in the extensive outdoor play spaces.

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

Children's emotional well-being is well supported. They are very settled and confident because they have warm relationships with their key person. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals and develop an understanding of a healthy diet. They discuss what is a healthy meal and develop their independence by serving themselves. They have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, older children undertake their own risk assessments. They consider what they need to do about risks, such as small twigs on the ground. Staff praise the children, reinforcing their good behaviour and kindness. They learn to follow rules through games, such as a traffic light game.

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

The owner and manager show a real commitment to providing a high quality provision. They have a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff have high levels of training. The management team purchase bespoke training to extend staff's skills and encourage them to research topics which will enhance specific aspects of their teaching. This means professional development is targeted at supporting children's learning. Staff have a good understanding of what would constitute a safeguarding concern and what they should do about any concern they may have. Staff keep good records of children's learning and complete detailed summaries of children's progress on a regular basis. The management team undertake regular reviews of staff's work and children's learning records to ensure all children are making good progress. The staff work closely with other early years providers to ensure they have information about children's abilities. They also work with other professionals to obtain additional advice for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This ensures prompt intervention to help all children prepare for the move on to school when the time comes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460575
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	981861
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	89
Name of provider	Wiseowl Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	27 June 2014
Telephone number	01782 303960

Wise Owl Nursery opened in 1990 and re-registered under its current ownership in 2013. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, including 14 at level 3, and the manager has a level 6 qualification and Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It also provides out of school care for a number of local schools. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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