

The Willows Day Nursery

Old Main Road, Fleet Hargate, Holbeach, SPALDING, Lincolnshire, PE12 8LL



Inspection date

24 February 2017

Previous inspection date

13 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager is inspirational and, over time, has nurtured a team of staff who share her drive, passion and enthusiasm. Parents recognise the high standards demonstrated at the nursery and the lengths staff go to, in order to ensure all children have memorable early years experiences. Consequently, children thrive in an environment that has their best interests at heart.
- Teaching throughout the nursery is exceptional and worthy of dissemination. Staff are dedicated to providing the very best for children and show a genuine interest for their work. Outstanding professional management systems are in place to help them maintain and surpass their already excellent abilities.
- Staff provide a highly stimulating environment for children. They thoughtfully display resources so that children become budding investigators eager to examine the contents of baskets, boxes or pots. Children become totally engrossed in their play and are able to fully explore what interests them.
- Staff are highly skilled and go the extra mile to support children to feel safe and secure at the nursery. They get to know children exceptionally well and work diligently with parents to support them to become accustomed to new environments and friends.
- Older children make excellent progress and many are able to read by the time they go to school. They learn to recognise numbers and count during adult-led activities and, in doing so, show they can concentrate, listen and follow instructions well.
- Partnership working is central to the ethos of the nursery and is outstanding. Parents have opportunities to attend excellent workshops where they hear at first hand how to support children's learning at home. The manager actively seeks strong links with other providers and professionals to ensure children benefit from a coordinated approach to their care and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on current teaching strategies being used to reflect children's interests and evaluate the impact these have on their further attainment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the deputy managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection, read emails from others and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The senior management team has high expectations and its drive for excellence is exceptional. Everyone concerned with the nursery is involved in the outstanding self-evaluation procedure and, as a result, plans for the future are exciting. For example, managers and staff have plans to further enhance teaching strategies so that children's natural curiosity, creativity and interests are even more central to the planning. The dedicated staff team welcomes and readily undertakes the wide range of training opportunities available to them. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are vigilant and knowledgeable about child protection matters and the local reporting procedures to follow if they have a concern. Monitoring of children's progress is meticulous. The manager has excellent procedures in place and, due to her diligence, targeted support is implemented swiftly when necessary.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

All children thrive at the nursery. Activities on offer are exciting and capture children's interests and imaginations exceptionally well. For example, children are able to explore their fascinations for pirates as they gather the resources needed to build a treasure island scene. Staff show excellent teaching abilities as they extend children's creativity and thinking. This enables children to consider the use of sand, materials and real treasure to enhance their play. Babies enjoy exploring and practising their toddling both inside and out in the garden. Staff are highly skilled and interactions with babies are delightful. Babies confidently make utterances as they join in with favourite rhymes or readily investigate resources to stimulate their senses.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have exceptional bonds with staff and, as they arrive at the nursery, they are delighted to be welcomed by them. Staff involve children in routine activities and, in doing so, children's confidence blossoms. For example, children take turns to become the health and safety representative and undertake daily checks to ensure there are no hazards posing risks to friends and staff. Children prepare their own snacks at 'The Nibbles Bar' and, in doing so, they learn about healthy foods and good hygiene. Children are able to access activities outside in all weathers. Older children regularly go on the bus to visit the library and choose new books to read at home. This gives children an excellent awareness of their own community and the different people living and working there. Children behave exceptionally well according to their stage of development.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children flourish at the nursery in an environment that is stimulating, homely and welcoming. Unsurprisingly, children are highly motivated to investigate and become active independent learners. They show great confidence as they move around the nursery and have a strong desire to follow their own interests. This excellent start in life gives them every opportunity to begin school with the skills and attitudes they need to succeed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY439986
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	1065817
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	151
Name of registered person	Willows Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP531267
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2013
Telephone number	01406423112

The Willows Day Nursery was registered in 2012. The nursery employs 19 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 5. The manager holds early years professional status and qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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