

Rathlee Nursery School

Rathlee Nursery School, 14 Grosvenor Road, ST. HELENS, Merseyside, WA10 3HX



Inspection date

31 May 2017

Previous inspection date

24 April 2014

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are motivated to learn and independently choose what they would like to play with. Overall, children are encouraged to explore and develop their own ideas to extend their learning.
- The quality of teaching is good. The well-qualified staff use their skills effectively to support children to make good progress in their learning. Staff make accurate observations and assessments of children's learning and development. They use this information well to plan purposeful next steps that truly reflect children's individual needs and interests.
- Parents are involved in their children's learning. They regularly receive updates about their children's progress through daily conversations and an online learning portal that they are encouraged to contribute to.
- The manager and staff use self-evaluation strategies effectively to identify strengths in practice and areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not support children fully, to ensure all children's involvement and engagement is fully maximised.
- Staff do not gather detailed information from parents about what their children can already do when they are new to the setting, in order to maximise learning from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support children more effectively to engage fully in the learning opportunities on offer
- strengthen the ways in which information is gathered from parents about children's learning and development when they start at the setting.

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 completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with of the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small group of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector had a tour of the nursery.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The passionate and dedicated manager and staff are committed to providing high-quality care and experiences for children. Safeguarding is effective. All staff undertake child protection training and have a secure understanding of the action they must take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager conducts purposeful supervision meetings and carries out observations of staff practice. Staff have frequent opportunities to develop their skills through a wealth of training opportunities. They use their knowledge gained from training courses to improve outcomes for children. The manager undertakes rigorous monitoring of children's progress. He constantly tracks children's learning and analyses data, using this information to help improve the provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are cared for in a stimulating and welcoming environment. Outside play is highly valued, supporting children who prefer to learn outdoors. Staff naturally join in with children's play, talking with them and asking questions to help develop their language and thinking skills. Babies enjoy sensory activities. They are supported to explore 'gloop' and are mesmerised as they watch the mixture move through their fingers. Toddlers make marks in sand and enjoy sorting coloured pom poms into coloured containers. Older children practise writing for a purpose and are introduced to mathematical concepts. They pretend to pay for ice creams in the ice cream parlour that they have created. Children listen intently as staff read stories to them and pause for children to fill in the missing words. This helps to extend children's imagination and literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The well-established key-person system helps children to form strong emotional attachments with staff. Staff are good role models and treat children with respect. Children behave well and have positive attitudes towards others. They happily share toys, take turns and use good manners with each other. Children benefit from regular exercise. They run around and learn to move their bodies in different ways. Furthermore, discussions take place about healthy foods and where foods come from. This helps to promote children's understanding of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of additional funding make good progress in their learning. Children show high levels of concentration and fascination in their play. Younger children are beginning to manage their self-care needs as they independently wash their hands and feed themselves. Older children show increasing independence as they help to lay the table, pour their drinks and serve their own meals. Children develop the appropriate skills that support them in readiness for school and their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY363684
Local authority	St. Helens
Inspection number	1088036
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 - 5
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Kerry Joanna Maria Hughes
Registered person unique reference number	RP906704
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2014
Telephone number	01744 613 427

Rathlee Nursery School registered in 2007. It is situated in St Helens, Merseyside and is managed by a private provider. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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