

The Children's Centre at Bentley West School

Monmouth Road, Bentley, Walsall, WS2 0EQ



Inspection date

3 July 2017

Previous inspection date

27 February 2014

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

- Dynamic leadership, extensive self-evaluation and commitment from all staff to continuous improvement have helped to raise the quality of the provision to an even higher level. Parents, staff, children and members of the local community contribute to the development of a shared vision to benefit all children.
- The highly skilled staff team uses their expert knowledge of how young children learn to plan activities that captivate children's interest and imaginations. For example, older children relish mathematical challenge as they extract long pieces of cooked pasta from a bowl and use equipment and language to compare the different lengths.
- All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make excellent progress from their starting points. They are exceptionally well equipped with the skills needed for their next stage of learning and they flourish. Children demonstrate extremely high levels of motivation and are immersed in their learning.
- The key-person system is exceptional. For example, one member of staff has a role dedicated to reaching out to children's families with innovative community events and workshops to ensure that children's needs are met fully.
- Staff are highly skilled and successful in managing children's behaviour and teaching them to respect each other. For instance, leaders have developed an excellent programme to help staff and parents work together to manage children's behaviour.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the excellent practice that extends children's understanding of the world even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed teaching practices and the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspectors held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspectors read some of the setting's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspectors sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations with the managers.

Inspector

Anne Clift and Soni Chana

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of child protection and are confident about the action to take if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Leaders provide exceptional support for staff professional development to benefit children. They monitor the quality of teaching and learning meticulously and empower staff to achieve excellence. For example, recent training inspired staff to review and improve existing practice to support children's early writing skills even further. Leaders and staff monitor the progress that children make thoroughly, targeting any gaps in development quickly. Partnerships with parents, other providers and professionals involved in children's care and learning are exceptionally effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan highly challenging activities to help children develop their physical skills. Babies are motivated to pull themselves up to explore exciting sensory experiences placed at standing height and older children delight as they operate plastic syringes to aim water at targets. Staff support children's communication and language development expertly. For example, they help children to communicate using sign language and are excellent models to help extend their sentences. Staff provide stimulating activities to help children develop their understanding of the world. Older children are enthralled as they hunt for bugs and observe the behaviour of crickets and babies are intrigued by objects that float or sink. Staff are now considering how to provide an even broader range of learning experiences to extend children's excellent understanding of the world further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide excellent support to secure children's emotional development. For example, they have developed a programme that sensitively helps children explore and understand their feelings and how these change over time. Children's good health is highly prioritised. For instance, staff provide outstanding support to children and families in a successful range of innovative health initiatives, such as dental care and research into child obesity and hidden sugar in food and drinks. Children are extremely independent and are provided with excellent opportunities to further develop their skills through daily routines.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are naturally curious and enjoy investigating. Older children are intrigued when they discover they can see behind them using mirrors and babies are fascinated as they push toy cars down tubes and crawl excitedly to retrieve them. Children develop excellent literacy skills. They are enthralled as they help to tell stories with masks, costumes and props. They relish the challenge of using interesting writing tools, such as painting with pegs attached to cotton wool and exploring marks made on different surfaces.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY151855
Local authority	Walsall
Inspection number	1087862
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	176
Number of children on roll	351
Name of registered person	Bentley West School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP518778
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2014
Telephone number	01922 746592

The Children's Centre at Bentley West School registered in 2002. It operates within the grounds of Bentley West School in Walsall, West Midlands. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. It employs 47 staff members. Of these, 42 hold appropriate early years qualifications, including seven at level 7. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years old.

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