

Pathways Day Nursery Balsall Common



Balsall Common Primary School, Balsall Street East, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7FS

Inspection date 13 November 2017
Previous inspection date 30 April 2015

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

- Leaders and managers have created a culture in which all staff have an extremely high expectation of themselves and the children. They have a distinct vision of what children need to achieve to meet their potential, regardless of their starting points.
- Expert teaching and consistently high levels of challenge contribute to children's seamless learning experiences. Staff are exceedingly resourceful and are able to reshape activities so that every child benefits from rewarding learning opportunities.
- Accurate assessments and a thorough understanding of children's needs help staff to plan precisely for further learning. They provide high levels of challenge for children to build on their skills in all areas of learning. Children are eager to learn and make substantial progress in their development.
- Managers and staff provide an exceptionally nurturing atmosphere and children settle extremely quickly. A superb child-centred approach to well-being contributes to children's sense of belonging and emotional security. They say that they are happy in the nursery and enjoy their play experiences.
- Managers and staff use highly successful methods to communicate with parents and other providers of settings children also attend. Excellent systems are in place to ensure children get the support they need to maintain best progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the tracking of groups of children to reflect all aspects of their achievements and to further enhance children's already excellent learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and records required for the efficient running of the nursery.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. The inspector carried out joint observations of teaching activities with managers.
- The inspector held meetings with a director and managers.
- The inspector spoke with the provider, staff and children.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents and read questionnaires completed by other parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Adelaide Griffith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Inspirational leadership and shared aspirations underpin the success of the nursery. Leaders and managers empower staff to deliver the highest levels of learning and care. Robust performance management is in place to help staff enhance their skills. They have used innovative methods and facilities, including an outdoors classroom, to introduce a new approach to learning. Children freely move between the outdoors space and the cosy classroom to sit, talk and to access books. As a result, all children's language skills, and in particular, boys' literacy attainments have grown considerably. Leaders and managers recognise the potential within the tracking arrangements to focus more precisely on the achievements of all groups of children. Parents enthuse about the admirable commitment staff have to promote children's well-being and learning. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have a thorough understanding of safeguarding procedures and are confident to report any concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use excellent teaching methods to help children learn. They capture the attention of younger children with imaginative reading and expressive intonation to bring stories to life. They repeatedly explain about turning the next page so that children understand that stories continue sequentially. Enthusiastic staff sustain older children's thinking through skilful questioning during outdoor activities. They include high levels of challenge for children to solve problems and to make connections with what they see. Staff integrate naturally occurring situations to extend children's learning. For example, when they talk about feeding stations, staff help children to identify the birds flying overhead. Teaching flows effortlessly and children remain completely engaged throughout activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff place tremendous emphasis on promoting children's personal, social and emotional development. They form exceedingly strong relationships with families and know the children very well. Staff manage transitions superbly for children who move within the nursery and across to the school facilities. Children demonstrate that they are completely at ease in the homely environment and confidently express their opinions. For example, they share their perceptions about the nutritious snacks they enjoy. They learn about the effects of exercise on their bodies and develop physical skills above the expected level of development for their age.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Pathways Day Nursery Balsall Common registered in 2001 and is part of four other settings in the local area. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 4. The provider holds qualified teacher status and early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year, from 7.30am to 6pm. A before- and after-school club also operates from 7.30am to 9am and 3.20pm to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364440
Local authority	Solihull
Inspection number	1093244
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Pathways Nurseries and Childcare Centres Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905164
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2015
Telephone number	01676 532 298

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