

YMCA Woodlands Nursery

Woodlands Infant & Nursery School, Whitethorn Grove, Off Regent Street,
Birchwood, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 0PF



Inspection date

4 May 2018

Previous inspection date

27 October 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 enjoy their time at the setting. They receive a warm welcome by staff when they arrive and form positive relationships with both staff and other children.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff observe children well when they play and identify the next steps in their learning to plan exciting activities for the children.
- Overall, the senior manager and staff develop good relationships with the parents. Parents say that the staff know their children well and children are happy and settled.
- Staff are well qualified. They access a wide range of learning and development opportunities to further their skills and knowledge to deliver good early years practice.
- The senior management team accurately evaluates their practice, including the views of parents to identify areas for development and how these can be addressed. Improvements are very effective and improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not gather sufficiently detailed information from parents about what children already know and can do before they start at the nursery to inform initial assessments and plan more precisely for their learning.
- Sometimes, routines in the nursery offer children less opportunities to engage in the play of their choice, particularly those children who prefer to be outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more-detailed information from parents about what their children already know and can do when they start at the nursery to inform initial assessments and plan more precisely for children's care and learning
- offer children more opportunities to participate in their preferred activities to help them be fully engaged in their play and learning, including those who prefer to learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the nursery management team.
- The inspector engaged in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled various documents, including a range of policies and procedures and evidence of self-evaluation.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector considered the views of parents from discussions during the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Sykes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of how to recognise if a child is at risk and how to escalate their concerns. Furthermore, robust recruitment procedures help to ensure the suitability of all adults working within the nursery. The senior management team evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the nursery very accurately. For example, the senior manager has recently devised a way to monitor the progress of groups of children even more accurately. This helps to identify any gaps in children's learning, so they can be addressed even more swiftly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. The well-qualified staff team has a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. Staff carry out assessments of children's development. Generally, they carefully plan for what children need to learn next to meet each child's needs. Staff support children's communication and language development well. For example, babies enjoy looking at books as they snuggle with staff or sing familiar nursery rhymes. Younger children are excited as they use scissors to cut cooked pasta to help to develop their small-muscle skills. Staff introduce new words, such as squishy and squashy as they explore the textures. They actively listen as children recall what they have played with during the session to support children's self-esteem. Older children are enthusiastic as they look at books about insects and then go on a bug hunt. They use magnifying glasses in the garden and are proud when they discover insects, sharing their finds enthusiastically with staff.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children build secure relationships with staff and their key person. Flexible procedures help new children to quickly settle into the nursery. Staff give children the support they need to feel emotionally secure. For example, children are given lots of cuddles and reassurance if they are upset. Children follow good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating and staff help them to learn why this is important. Children's behaviour is good. They play well together and benefit from staff being positive role models. They are learning to keep themselves safe. For instance, when walking within the local community, staff teach children how to be careful near roads.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress and are gaining the skills they need for the next stage in their learning including their eventual move to school. Children are confident, sociable and become increasingly independent. They enjoy taking part in activities, such as comparing the sizes of objects. This helps to build on their mathematical knowledge. Children are developing early writing skills as they, for instance, use chalks on the playground. Staff consistently reinforce rules and help children to understand acceptable behaviours, such as not running indoors. This helps children to learn what is expected of them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY319646
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	1104445
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	32
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	Lincolnshire YMCA
Registered person unique reference number	RP909389
Date of previous inspection	27 October 2014
Telephone number	01522 685499

YMCA Woodlands Nursery registered in 2005 and opened in 2006. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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