

Windmill Hill Nursery

Windmill Hill South, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6QE



Inspection date	8 January 2019
Previous inspection date	16 May 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
Effectiveness of 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

- The manager and deputy manager have made significant improvements since the last inspection. This has had a positive impact on children's learning and development. Staff have received training to support them in using what they know about children's individual development and for planning for children's next steps in learning.
- The manager is knowledgeable about the procedures she must follow as the designated safeguarding officer for the nursery. She ensures her staff fully understand that they must make her aware of concerns they may have about the children in their care. All staff attend training to ensure they are fully aware of potential signs of abuse or neglect.
- The small and friendly staff team provides a safe and nurturing environment. This helps support children's strong sense of belonging. Children are constantly praised for their achievements, which contributes towards raising their confidence and self-esteem.
- Partnership working is excellent. Staff liaise extremely closely with parents, professionals and the local school to help foster children's care and learning. Children benefit from this strong continuity between the nursery, home and school they attend.
- Occasionally, staff do not allow children enough time to explore and participate fully in their chosen activities before moving them on to the next activity or practical routine.
- Staff do not make the best use of opportunities in the outdoor area to fully support children's curiosity and imagination and help children who prefer to learn outside progress at the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine teaching strategies to help support children to complete tasks to their own satisfaction and to fully understand what is expected of them when moving from one activity to another
- make better use of the outdoor facilities to further support children's curiosity and imagination and increase the potential for children who prefer to learn outside to achieve at the highest level.

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 manager. 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 and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lindsey Wallwork-Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of safeguarding and wider child protection issues. They are secure in their knowledge of how to identify and report concerns to help protect children from harm. Staff complete regular health and safety checks to ensure the environment is safe for children to explore freely. A thorough recruitment procedure is in place to ensure suitable staff are working with children. The manager evaluates the quality of the nursery well. She considers the views of staff, parents and children and has plans in place to continually improve children's experiences. Staff benefit from ongoing supervision and professional development opportunities to enhance their teaching skills. For example, staff confidently reflect and critique each other's activities to share good practice and to raise standards to a higher level.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children are making consistently good progress across the main areas of learning. Staff are knowledgeable about the children's current stage of development. They undertake observations and make assessments about what the children know and can do as the children play. For example, staff use the children's developmental tracking to plan realistic targets that the children can achieve. These are adapted to meet children's individual needs and interests. Children use their senses well to explore and learn effectively. For example, children experiment with ice cubes as they try to make an igloo and watch as the ice melts into water. Early mathematics is encouraged with every age group. Staff working with the younger children help them to count one, two and three, as they explore the resources in their immediate environment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle extremely quickly ready to start their learning. They enter the nursery happily and confidently. Children enjoy sitting together and socialising during snack time. Their independence is effectively supported while they help to clear away and wash their own dishes. Staff constantly praise the children as they share toys and learn to take turns. Children behave very well. They display good manners, listen to staff and show respect for other children in the play areas.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills in readiness for their future learning as they move on to school. Older children are learning to become independent and meet their own needs. They learn how to pour their own drinks and put on their coats to play outdoors. Children confidently share their experiences from nursery and the activities they enjoy completing. For example, they excitedly talk about using spray bottles to paint and create winter pictures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346757
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	10089400
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	55
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Windmill Hill Nursery Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910071
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2018
Telephone number	01928 759384

Windmill Hill Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. They all hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from levels 3 to 5. The nursery opens for a variety of sessions from 8.30am until 6pm from Monday to Friday, during term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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