

Sandhills Day Nursery, Alvechurch



Sandhills Day Nursery, 49 Swan Street, Alvechurch, BIRMINGHAM B48 7RR

Inspection date	16 August 2019
Previous inspection date	13 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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

- Highly effective leadership and a mutual pursuit for excellence shared by the whole staff team leads to outstanding outcomes for children.
- Staff develop excellent partnerships with parents from the outset, such as helping parents complete a comprehensive assessment about children's development to help them fully understand the needs of children. Staff provide tailored guidance and information to parents about the precise ways they can support their children to make significant gains in their learning.
- Teaching is excellent. Staff have the highest expectations of children and focus on helping them progress. They use their comprehensive knowledge about each child's learning style and interests to motivate them to learn.
- Staff have a thorough understanding of how children learn best and target promoting children's communication and language skills during their interactions.
- Staff place a clear priority on getting children ready for school. The pre-school children have a deep understanding of mathematical and literacy concepts and work extremely well in groups and on their own.
- Health and behaviour is a key focus for staff. They build very close relationships with children and promote their well-being. Staff ensure each child receives high levels of emotional support to help them join in. Even the youngest children show excellent levels of motivation and engagement during activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to use the excellent professional development opportunities in place to support new staff to help maintain the exceptional quality of teaching.

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 carried out a joint observation with the manager and regional manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the providers, regional manager, manager and deputy. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at the nursery during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The highly experienced leaders and proactive staff team are extremely reflective in their approach in continually raising children's achievement. Since the last inspection there are some new staff and an interim manager who is covering maternity leave. The leaders attribute their continued success to the excellent professional development opportunities and support for all new staff. Leaders are driven to maintain the excellent standards. For example, the recently employed regional manager's role is to oversee all nurseries within the group to help further monitor and share the excellent practice. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding issues. Extensive recruitment, vetting and induction procedures ensure all staff are suitable and new staff are successfully inducted.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff help children make excellent use of open-ended resources and their interaction is exceptional. For example, a group of children use fabric, bubble wrap, cardboard boxes and chairs to create their tent, campfire, train and tunnels. They are completely absorbed in their dramatic play and staff sensitively extend their ideas. Staff caring for pre-school children use the book of the week extremely well to help them learn in depth about the structure of a story, characters and how to review the book. Staff are very knowledgeable about how to support children's early writing skills from a very young age. For example, staff provide ample opportunities for children to strengthen muscles in their arms and hands and then move them on to writing independently.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff place an excellent focus on promoting children's good mental health. For example, children learn that exercise and relaxation is good for their well-being. They use an excellent range of puppets, stories and strategies to help children talk about their emotions and help them regulate their behaviour. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals and develop a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of a healthy diet. Staff provide ample opportunities for children to be physical. For example, they support babies extremely well to sit, crawl and walk, and children take part in music and movement with balloons, ribbons and instruments. They prioritise teaching children about keeping safe extremely well. For example, staff teach children about good and bad touch through storytelling and about how to respect their own and other's bodies.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make consistently high rates of progress from their starting points in preparation for school. All children, including babies, display high levels of curiosity and thoroughly enjoy their play. The pre-school children excel in their mathematical and literacy learning. For example, children recognise numbers up to 31 as they complete the calendar and show a deep understanding of addition, subtraction and quantities. They enthusiastically and correctly order all the letters of the alphabet and know the sounds they make. Children independently use writing materials as they busily make their train tickets and the most able children can write their names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY314384
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	10115514
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	90
Number of children on roll	105
Name of registered person	Sandhills Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525837
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2015
Telephone number	0121 445 1478

Sandhills Day Nursery registered in 2005. It is situated in Alvechurch, Birmingham. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, with the exception of bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 24 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, 19 hold a qualification at level 3, two hold a qualification at level 2 and two are unqualified.

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