

Inspection of The Wooden Horse At Church House

Church House, Flowergate, Whitby YO21 3BA

Inspection date: 3 December 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are extremely well cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming environment where staff know them well and respect their individuality. Children are involved in a broad range of activities and experiences. They benefit from easy access to a wide range of high-quality resources that are attractively presented in the learning areas. This helps to stimulate children's interest and promote the development of their skills.

Children throughout the nursery are happy, settled and confident. They enjoy the time they spend at nursery, making good relationships with staff and each other. The key-person system contributes successfully to children's sense of belonging.

Language and communication skills are strongly promoted throughout all aspects of nursery life. Children are confident communicators and clearly express their thoughts and ideas. Staff have high expectations of children and praise them for their efforts and achievements, which encourages children to persist in their chosen tasks. Children behave exceptionally well and understand what is expected of them. Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to working with parents, carers and connected professionals involved in children's lives. Consequently, children's individual needs are well met and children are well prepared for school.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff are kind, caring and positive role models for children. For example, younger children's acts of kindness are always acknowledged by staff. Staff help children learn the importance of good manners and taking turns. This helps to support children's understanding of what good behaviour looks like.
- The manager and staff design a curriculum that develops children's independence and self-confidence. They have a clear understanding of what they are teaching children. Children explore a range of opportunities indoors and out. They take responsibility for their own learning and accept support when offered by adults. Teaching is effective and meets children's developmental needs. Assessment is accurate and effectively informs children's next steps. Children's progress is tracked using key workers' detailed knowledge. However, occasionally, staff do not provide sufficient challenge during activities for children to make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Staff use activities skilfully, overall, to meet the needs of children across the full age range. For example, during a spontaneous role-play activity, staff support children to develop early writing skills. Children write party signs and invitations. They practise large movement skills as they dance to the music. Staff's good understanding of children's learning helps them to be aware of when to provide additional resources such as musical instruments.

- The manager is reflective and takes a motivational approach towards her role and responsibilities. Staff form a strong team that recognises the strengths that each member brings towards the quality of the nursery. However, the professional development programme does not focus sharply on developing expert teaching knowledge, to help raise achievement even higher.
- Children count, sort and make comparisons in their activities. They are highly skilled at understanding various shapes within their environment. Children discuss with staff that the nursery windows are square-shaped while at home they are rectangular. They relate this knowledge to pictures they are drawing and making. Staff encourage them to use positional language and compare sizes. This helps to develop children's early mathematical awareness.
- Staff within the nursery work closely with parents. From the outset, staff gather a wealth of information about children's starting points to ensure that parents are involved. They ensure that parents are kept informed about their child's achievements and support them to extend their learning at home. For example, parents are able to access story sacks and resources to take home. Parents are very happy with the care and education provided for their children. They comment that staff are amazing and children are happy and content.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff and management have a thorough knowledge of their roles and responsibilities to protect children from harm. Staff are clear about the different signs and symptoms across the areas of abuse and wider safeguarding issues. They know to report their concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. The lead is clear about her role to monitor the risks to children and report any concerns promptly. Staff provide a safe and secure play environment for children indoors and outside. They supervise children well to ensure their safety. There are secure processes to review staff's understanding of safeguarding matters through staff meetings and questions to test their knowledge.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide children with consistently higher levels of challenge during activities, so that they make more rapid progress in their learning
- strengthen procedures for staff's professional development and focus more sharply on developing and applying an expert knowledge of teaching.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY550219
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	10110699
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 to 4
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	The Wooden Horse Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP550217
Telephone number	01947 604222
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Wooden Horse at Church House registered in 2017. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection activities

- The provider and the inspector carried out a learning walk. They discussed the learning environment and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The provider and the inspector observed and evaluated an activity.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- Throughout the inspection, the inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2019