

Inspection of Total Tots Ltd

Caton Road, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3PE

Inspection date: 20 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are exceptionally well cared for at this outstanding nursery. They arrive extremely happy to see staff and eagerly enter their designated rooms. Staff in turn offer children an incredibly warm and sincere welcome, and enthusiastically invite them to join in with activities. Children are entirely at ease and brimming with confidence. They march up to visitors to the nursery and ask their names, which shows strong self-assurance and assertion.

The extremely well-qualified, experienced and long-standing team successfully fulfils the highest of expectations for all children. Staff create a vibrant, inspiring environment and expertly plan a curriculum that ignites children's curiosity and love for learning. Children become entirely absorbed in their learning and continuously demonstrate the abundance of knowledge and learning they have achieved. For example, children talk in great detail about how they made their den. They talk about the different materials they have used and how they used wooden blocks to hold the fabric covering in place.

Children's behaviour is impeccable. They play in complete harmony and wholeheartedly join in with the routine of the day. They cheerfully line up for handwashing, where some children pretend to stand straight like 'soldiers', which shows their enjoyment of this part of the routine. Other children gently remind one another it is time to tidy up. Staff shower children in praise that is precise to children's actions, which further promotes children's superb understanding and exemplary behaviour. Children learn that their feelings are important as they discuss their emotions, using the 'feelings monsters'.

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

- The leadership and management of the nursery are inspirational. The manager shows a truly astounding passion and complete dedication to the success of the nursery. She successfully ignites an equal drive among the staff team and as a result, a culture of reflective practice is tightly embedded. For example, the manager engages in daily discussions with staff regarding planning and learning intentions. Staff frequently request that the manager completes evaluations of different areas of their practice, which leads to reflective discussions around where enhancements can be made.
- There is an extremely strong focus on nurturing the skills of apprentices and newly recruited staff. Leaders create a comprehensive and fully tailored training and induction programme. This helps to create a team of highly skilled and dedicated practitioners.
- Managers are extremely proactive and immediately secure support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff work collaboratively with

parents, local authority special educational needs advisers and other involved professionals to agree and implement strategies. Children make superb progress from their starting points and achieve the best possible outcomes. Funding for eligible children is very well targeted. Staff work closely with parents to agree on areas that funding should focus on and how to make the biggest impact.

- Partnership with parents is exceptional. Parents are highly valued as being their child's first and most important educators. Staff create an array of opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's learning in the nursery and at home. For example, parents are invited to contribute to assessments of learning, attend stay-and-play sessions and meetings with key persons, and to share observations from home. Parents are highly complimentary of the staff team and nursery practice.
- There is an array of different teaching styles within the staff team, all of which are equally outstanding. Some staff are gentle and nurturing in their approach, while others are highly animated and energetic. All staff are skilled questioners. They ask carefully posed questions that draw out children's knowledge. Staff then expertly steer conversations in different directions to embed and challenge children's learning.
- Children develop an excellent sense of self and what makes them unique. Staff encourage open discussions about similarities and differences among the children and staff. They discuss different family dynamics and where across the world they are from. Children have recently enjoyed learning British Sign Language, with superb support from staff. They learn about this important and valued form of communication and about those with hearing impairments.
- Babies benefit from secure emotional attachments to staff, who are kind, caring and highly responsive to their needs. Staff are aware of the importance of ensuring they have the most up-to-date information on babies' care needs and routines. They are highly proactive in seeking this information from parents and implementing any changes.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Promoting children's safety and welfare is given the highest priority. All staff have a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding and their individual responsibilities to protect children. They are extremely well versed in the procedures to follow in response to any concerns they may have about a child. Staff receive in-depth training and have a secure knowledge of wider safeguarding practices. Staff manage all accidents in line with robust policies and procedures. Ratios are always maintained and the very well-deployed staff are diligent in their supervision of children. Managers follow comprehensive recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of all staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY259485
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10109689
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 to 4
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	256
Name of registered person	Total Tots Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP911306
Telephone number	01524 680 43
Date of previous inspection	12 August 2013

Information about this early years setting

Total Tots Ltd registered in 2003 and is situated in Lancaster, Lancashire. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 16 hold early years qualifications, including the manager, who is qualified to level 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the manager and held discussions about the early years provision and meeting children's needs.
- A joint observation was carried out and the inspector took account of the manager's evaluations.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including safeguarding policies and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- A meeting was held between the inspector and the nursery leadership team to discuss leadership and management arrangements.

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.

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