

Inspection of Windmill Hill Day Nursery Limited

Windmill Hill House, Windmill Hill, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST3
7PR

Inspection date: 30 January 2020

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children have a wonderful time and tremendous fun as they play and learn in this safe, stimulating and extremely well-resourced nursery. They are eager to participate in activities and all rooms are a hive of activity. Staff plan a range of innovative and exciting activities for children to explore which ignite their curiosity and foster their enthusiasm to learn. Babies shout with delight as they look at and shake sparkly wands, investigate colour changing balls and crawl through flashing lights. Tweenies explore their senses as they investigate spaghetti hoops, mushy peas and shaving foam which staff have frozen into ice blocks. Children persevere as they melt the ice with their hands to find what is hidden inside. Tweenies are captivated as they listen intently to a story about the animals in the zoo and shout out the animals' names. Older children have great fun as they dress up as a tiger, a pirate or a princess in a bright pink wig. They are engrossed as they play with dinosaurs. They incorporate mathematical language into their play as they say that the dinosaur has a very long neck. Staff encourage children to compare the sizes of the dinosaurs and say which is the biggest and the smallest. They ask children if they know the names of the dinosaurs and children recognise and name tyrannosaurus rex and stegosaurus.

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

- The nursery benefits from a strong, forward-thinking management team which strives for perfection. Managers work extremely well together and are wholly supportive of staff. As a result, staff are dedicated and enthusiastic and the turn over of staff is very low. Managers and staff continually evaluate all aspects of the nursery to ensure that they provide an excellent, high-quality provision for children and parents.
- All staff are supported to continually update their knowledge and professional development. They complete at least one online training course every month. Managers carry out peer observations to monitor staff practice and to help them identify any additional training that staff would benefit from. Staff's health and well-being are given top priority.
- The setting is scrupulously clean and hygiene practices are exemplary. Children's health is given high consideration. Babies sleep in comfortable prams outside in the fresh air in a specially adapted area which shields them from the wind and sun.
- Behaviour is exemplary throughout the nursery. Staff have high expectations for behaviour and act as positive role models. They teach children to share and take turns, and older children remind each other of this as they play. Staff skilfully help children to think about the consequences of their actions and then stand back and provide children with time to resolve minor tussles for themselves.
- Children learn to recognise the differences and similarities between themselves

and others. They know that we may look different on the outside but that inside we are all the same. They learn about different festivals. Younger children make Chinese lanterns which they decorate with ears, eyes and whiskers to represent the year of the rat.

- The outdoor environment is exceptional. Children enjoy having the space to freely run and explore. They take turns as they pretend to fill the tractor with petrol. They push the tractor and say that they are charging £10 for a ride in the trailer. Children recall a favourite story as they pretend to go on a bear hunt and make their way through a river, mud and a forest till they find the bear hidden in the grass.
- There is an active, two-way flow of information with parents, who are fully involved in their child's care and learning. Parents are provided with information to show them where children should be in their learning. Parents are exceptionally pleased with the care that their children receive. They say that the nursery is fantastic and there is a real family atmosphere.
- Children make excellent progress from their individual starting points and capabilities, and many are achieving above their expected level of development. Children's progress is rigorously tracked to identify if there are any gaps in learning or resources. Early intervention is swiftly sought, where needed, to help every child reach their full potential.
- Children have lovely relationships with staff and are obviously happy in their care. They actively seek staff out for reassurance or to join in their games. Staff are attentive to every child's individual needs and swiftly recognise when children need extra comfort or support.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff give a high regard to safeguarding children. They have an exceptional knowledge of the signs that may indicate a child is suffering from abuse or neglect, including wider safeguarding issues. They attend training to ensure that their safeguarding knowledge is always up to date. All staff are fully aware of the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child in their care or the conduct of a member of staff. The premises are safe and secure. High-quality systems are in place to ensure that no one can enter the premises unchecked. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust to ensure that every person working with the children is suitable to do so.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218515
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10072572
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 9
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	Windmill Hill Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP523080
Telephone number	01782 393010
Date of previous inspection	15 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

Windmill Hill Day Nursery Limited registered in 1984. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, one holds level 5, and 10 hold level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. A before- and after-school club also operates from 7.30am until 8.50am and from 3.30pm until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca Johnson

Inspection activities

- The quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors was observed, and the inspector assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation and a learning walk with the providers and the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- A meeting was held with the providers and the deputy manager. The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including children's details and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The views of parents were taken into account during the inspection.

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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