

Inspection of Little Footprints Swinton

Little Moss Lane, Clifton, Swinton, Manchester M27 6HA

Inspection date: 28 May 2021

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 enter the nursery keen to explore the attractive and inviting environment that staff have created for them. They quickly settle after arriving and seek out their friends to share experiences with. Resources are high quality and plentiful. Children are immediately absorbed in their chosen activities and are enthusiastic to play and learn. They move confidently around the room, where they independently select what they would like to participate in. For example, they use paint to make marks and skilfully squeeze more paint from bottles, naming the colours that they recognise. Children giggle with delight as they excitedly explore a beach area that staff have thoughtfully created for them. Staff deepen children's vocabulary as they talk about going on holiday and travelling on an aeroplane.

Staff are friendly, kind and caring in their approach. They form warm and trusting bonds with children and are sensitive to their individual needs. Children benefit from positive attachments with staff. Leaders implement strong settling-in procedures that help children to become familiar with their key person and their new environment. Staff gather detailed information about children when they first start and quickly develop a successful rapport with the whole family.

Children are kind and caring towards one another and behave well. They notice when their friends are absent, which shows an awareness of others who are important to them. Staff give children clear and consistent reminders to help them to understand the rules of the setting and what is expected of them.

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

- The dedicated manager has an accurate evaluation of the nursery and has identified purposeful actions to help drive further improvements. Staff are supported by regular professional dialogues, where children's progress is discussed and activity ideas are shared. Staff have frequent opportunities to access training, and their ongoing professional development is considered during supervision sessions. However, leaders do not make the best possible use of their existing monitoring systems. They do not always identify where staff require additional support so that they can consistently challenge and extend children's learning.
- Children demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. They respond well to staff's interactions and are clearly motivated to learn. Children are becoming good communicators. Staff model play and provide a running commentary, which helps to give meaning to what children are doing. Older children communicate confidently and share their ideas with their friends. They enjoy exploring the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and are able to repeat familiar words and phrases as staff retell the story using props.

- Children are beginning to develop an awareness of number names. Staff model simple counting as children play. For example, as they scoop sand into a bucket, staff count aloud 'one, two, three'. However, staff sometimes lack confidence in supporting children's mathematical understanding further. They do not always ensure that children are able to hear, use and understand mathematical concepts as they play.
- Staff pay particular attention to supporting children's personal, social and emotional development. They continually offer praise, encouragement and reassurance as children play. Children's efforts are celebrated as they are encouraged to try and complete tasks independently. Gentle reminders about taking turns and sharing help children to understand how to play alongside others.
- Staff support children's emerging language skills well. For example, they describe young children's play and encourage children to talk about what they are doing. They help to extend children's vocabulary by introducing new words, using repetition and asking thought-provoking questions. Children are given ample time to think and respond, in order to share their thoughts and ideas. The manager has identified additional interventions to help improve children's communication and language skills even further.
- Parents' comments about the nursery are positive. They describe how they receive regular updates about children's progress through daily discussions with staff who share their knowledge and skills. This helps parents to further support their child's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff attend regular safeguarding training and fully understand the possible signs and symptoms that might indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know how to raise concerns with the management team and outside agencies in order to protect children. They swiftly secure them the additional support that they may need. Staff confidently describe the procedure they would follow should they have concerns about a colleague's practice or conduct. Leaders implement robust recruitment procedures and ensure the ongoing suitability of staff. Staff's understanding of safeguarding issues is frequently checked through questioning and discussions during staff meetings.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure that staff receive the support they require to confidently challenge and extend children's learning, particularly in mathematics, to the highest level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2589145
Local authority	Salford
Inspection number	10195531
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 3
Total number of places	92
Number of children on roll	5
Name of registered person	Welcome Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2576357
Telephone number	01617278050
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Footprints Swinton registered in 2020. The nursery operates from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. There are currently two staff working directly with the children, both of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Karen Cox

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the nursery and has taken that into account in the evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- A learning walk was carried out with the manager to discuss the curriculum intent and how the provision is organised.
- The inspector carried out a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She reviewed a variety of documents, including qualifications, first-aid certificates and policies.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children during activities and assessed the impact of teaching on children's learning.

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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