

Inspection of Squirrels Of Haselworth

Haselworth Cp School, Stone Lane, GOSPORT, Hampshire PO12 1SQ

Inspection date: 28 July 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
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 run in excitedly to find their key person at Squirrels Of Haselworth. Their enthusiasm and sheer joy at being at the setting is plain to see. Children are thrilled to see their friends. They are highly effective communicators, who play cooperatively with each other. Children enjoy exploring seaweed, sharing exciting stories, playing games and taking part in activities. They show high levels of engagement as they play and learn. Children are self-motivated and extremely well behaved.

Children are resilient and are developing strategies to help them consider different ways of approaching tasks. They keep on trying even when they find something difficult. Children very confidently find their own resources and solve their own problems. They take obvious pride in their achievements and beam with delight as they solve puzzles and cut up their own fruit for snacks.

Children are exceptionally confident. They introduce visitors to the setting to their friends and the staff team. Children flourish in the warm and attentive care they receive from staff. Staff have high expectations for all children. Children develop many skills to support them to move on to the next stage in their education.

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

- There is a clear and ambitious vision for the setting, shared by managers and staff. The staff team work very effectively together to support children's care and learning. There is a strong focus on continually developing and improving the quality of the setting. The garden, for example, has undergone extensive work to create a stimulating and inviting learning environment for children. Children enthusiastically explore the many areas, resources and activities that staff plan to support their learning.
- Staff readily identify children who need additional support for their learning. They implement highly effective plans to help close gaps in children's learning. Staff are skilled at making sure that learning is targeted at the right level to help children. They ask some children thought-provoking questions, encouraging their thinking skills, and use visual support for those children who need more help. All children are learning to be confident communicators.
- Children enjoy many activities to support their physical development. They climb and slide, dig sand, water tomato plants, thread laces through holes and paint the fences. Staff recognise children need the opportunity to be physically active every day.
- Staff are very positive role models for the children. Children show exceptional manners, such as asking staff politely to help them move resources from the end of the slide.

- Staff are engaging storytellers. They read fast and slowly, varying their voices to hook children in to the exciting stories they read. Children listen attentively and join in enthusiastically with the familiar words. Staff introduce children to new words, explaining what they mean. They carefully consider how to make the best use of books throughout the learning environment to support children's early reading skills. Books about animals are close by the small-world figures, for example, inviting children to explore the pictures of their favourite animals.
- Mathematics is included in all areas of the learning environment. Staff skilfully ask children to turn the knob on the cereal holder three times, matching the turns to the dots and numbers displayed on the dispenser. They count with children and encourage them to order log slices by size as they play. Children are developing a good understanding of basic mathematical skills.
- At times, not all staff support children to be as independent as they could be. They sometimes complete tasks that children could manage themselves. This occasionally limits what children can achieve independently.
- Children enjoy activities with staff in small groups, such as listening activities to support their communication and understanding. However, large groups are not as supportive of children's learning. The younger children are not always engaged and find it hard to listen and join in.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The designated safeguarding lead is knowledgeable and proactive in carrying out her role. She monitors the understanding that the staff team has and plans regular training to support the weaker areas of their knowledge. Staff know their job is to promote children's welfare at all times. They understand the signs they may see in children that might concern them and what to do with their concerns. Wider aspects of safeguarding, such as online safety, are also considered. There is a high focus on keeping children safe in the setting, with robust recruitment procedures to ensure staff suitability, thorough risk assessments and regular headcounts.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- help staff to consider the effectiveness of large-group activities in supporting children's learning, particularly for the younger children
- support staff to consistently help children develop their independence skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2510404
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10194483
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 at time of inspection	2 to 8
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Squirrels Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910789
Telephone number	02392 583657
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Squirrels Of Haselworth registered in 2018. The setting is situated on the site of Haselworth County Primary School in Gosport, Hampshire. It opens Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, throughout the year. There are 11 staff employed, nine of whom are qualified to level 3 and above. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emma Dean

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the managers and discussed how the curriculum and setting are organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation and discussed the teaching and learning following the activity.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The manager provided relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons working at the nursery, which the inspector sampled.

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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