

Inspection of Humpty Dumpty's Kindergarden

The Barn, Fir Covert Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR8 6HT

Inspection date: 25 August 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy to attend the nursery and enjoy the wide range of activities on offer. Older children use great imagination as they make up stories with their friends, showing a good range of vocabulary. They are confident to speak to others and are kind and polite. They understand rules and boundaries and use tools, such as sand timers, to know when it is their turn to access a popular resource. Staff teach children to maintain a safe environment and help them to move objects out of the way so their friends do not trip or fall.

Babies show that they feel safe and secure. They are confident to explore the well-planned environment. They learn new skills, such as how to access the outdoors independently, under the close supervision of staff. When babies wake from sleep, staff immediately soothe them and give them the reassurance they need to quickly return to activities.

Older children engage well in the opportunities the nursery offers. Staff follow children's ideas as they play and use each interaction to extend their learning. They ask children questions and make suggestions. These positive interactions are successful in maintaining children's interest and engagement for extended periods of time.

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

- Leaders and staff recognise the importance of fostering children's independence. From a young age, children are encouraged to do tasks for themselves. Younger children learn to find their shoes to indicate that they want to go outdoors. They are given opportunities to serve themselves food, with staff only intervening when children run into difficulty. Older children clear their plates away when they have finished eating and clean their own faces afterwards using a mirror as an aid. Children understand expectations for behaviour. They follow staff instructions and learn to behave respectfully to their friends.
- Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, leaders and staff have worked hard to enhance the learning environment for children. Much thought has gone into creating a natural and welcoming environment. Babies have access to cosy areas and spaces that encourage communication. Older children access real-life objects and tools as they play. They use knives and forks to scoop and cut spaghetti. All children have lots of opportunities for physical play. Older children throw and catch balls, whereas younger children go out into the community and take walks to the park.
- Staff provide good levels of support to help children to develop their communication and language skills. Staff who work with babies sing to them and share stories. During imaginative play, older children name fruit and vegetables

on their pretend pizza. When a child mentions yellow melon, staff inform them that it is a honeydew melon. The conversation continues with children learning new names for fruit, including mango and watermelon.

- Staff who work with older children are skilful in extending their learning. During a building activity, staff notice children's interests and, based on their own assessments of what children know and can do, ask them challenging questions. They encourage children to identify shapes and count objects beyond the number 10. However, staff in the toddler room are not as perceptive to children's learning. They do not always recognise when children are deeply involved in self-chosen activities. Instead, they encourage children to leave what they are doing to participate in a group story activity. Children engage significantly less and distract themselves at story time, therefore, missing the opportunity to continue their previous learning.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been some disruption to staffing in the nursery, which has meant there have been several staff changes. Leaders ensure that there is a thorough induction process in place, which includes staff becoming familiar with the nursery's policies and procedures. Leaders have an effective system in place to help existing staff continue their professional development. However, those staff who are currently on their probation period do not get the same level of support and supervision to help them to quickly implement leaders' aspirations of a highly challenging and child-centred curriculum.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff receive relevant safeguarding training and have a firm understanding of the signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, or is being harmed. They know how to report their concerns about children's welfare, including any concerns they have about adults who work with children. Leaders have secure procedures in place to act on any concerns, including making prompt contact with the relevant professionals and keeping important records. Leaders follow safe recruitment procedures to check on staff's suitability and ensure only those deemed suitable to work with children do so.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- minimise disruption to younger children's engagement in activities and support them to complete activities to their own satisfaction
- strengthen supervision and support to newer members of staff to enable them to understand and implement the intended curriculum more swiftly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429172
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10205457
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Humpty Dumpty Kindergarden Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP530741
Telephone number	01603 866477
Date of previous inspection	13 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

Humpty Dumpty's Kindergarden registered in 2011. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff and a cook. Of these, 10 staff hold qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager who holds a level 6 qualification. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and a week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Julie Meredith-Jenkins

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 on the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The nursery owner and the inspector completed a learning walk together.
- Children spoke to the inspector about the activities they were engaged in and what they enjoyed doing at the nursery.
- The owner and the inspector jointly observed and evaluated a spontaneous activity.
- Parents spoke to the inspector about their children's experiences at the nursery and the information that staff share with them.
- The owner, deputy manager and the inspector held a meeting together. The inspector looked at a sample of documents, including evidence of staff's suitability.

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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