

Inspection of Rhubarb & Custards

168 Dewsbury Road, Ossett WF5 9PL

Inspection date: 23 September 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 are confident and happy. They feel safe and well cared for in this homely and welcoming nursery. Children make a strong start to their nursery experience. They respond well to staff's warm and caring manner and high expectations. Children of all ages become confident in the nursery and keen to learn. Children enjoy exploring the well-planned and stimulating environment based upon their interests and needs. For example, they enjoy finding out about the seasons as they investigate conkers, nuts and seeds and share books about the natural world.

Children behave well and are polite and considerate towards others. They learn everyone's name through singing games and action rhymes, and use them in their play. Children have lots of fun during sessions. They eagerly greet staff and their friends when they arrive in the morning.

Children feel safe and well cared for. Staff build good relationships with parents from the start. This helps babies, and other new starters, settle smoothly into the nursery's routines and enjoy themselves from the start. Children learn to play safely. For example, they work together with staff to build an obstacle course from wooden planks and tyres that they can safely balance and jump from.

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

- The manager provides strong leadership. She has a very clear vision for the future of the nursery, which is shared by her staff. The manager helps her staff to build on their qualifications and training and to share their knowledge and experiences effectively. Staff constantly aim to improve opportunities for the children in their care. The manager and her staff rigorously review the planning, assessment and curriculum to help all children make good progress to achieve their full potential.
- Overall, staff promote children's speaking and listening skills well. Staff speak gently and clearly to the children. They encourage children to develop a love of reading. Children readily choose a book to read on their own or with their friends throughout the day. Babies and young children squeal with anticipation as they turn a page and lift the flaps in their favourite animal books. Children follow the plot of new and familiar books. However, staff do not consistently support children to remember new vocabulary that they are recently introduced to and to check their understanding.
- Staff establish a calm and sensitive ethos which contributes well to children's personal development. They spend a lot of time joining in children's role play and other activities. Staff gently guide children to extend their interests and ideas. Children learn to choose and manage their own activities and to ask for help when they need it.

- Parents hold the nursery staff in very high regard. They feel that the manager and her staff know their children very well and they value the support offered to them. Parents appreciate the positive steps staff take to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic on children's learning and to keep everyone safe. They welcome the many opportunities staff offer to talk about their children and learn about their interests and their needs.
- Staff very positively promote children's health and well-being. They prepare nourishing meals and snacks, and help children to understand the importance of eating healthily. Staff ensure that mealtimes are friendly and relaxed. Children show pride in trying new food and using cutlery carefully. Staff help children to remember to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They teach children the importance of cleaning their teeth.
- Children behave very well. Staff spend a lot of time listening to children and strongly praise their efforts. They model good manners throughout the day and children regularly use 'please' and 'thank you' towards staff and each other. Children follow instructions very well. For example, they tidy up promptly and sit on the floor for group activities. Staff provide useful guidance to help parents manage their children's behaviour at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The designated safeguarding lead ensures that staff are well trained in child protection procedures. She holds frequent safeguarding discussions at staff meetings and makes certain staff access the latest training. Staff have a good knowledge of the signs that children may be at risk of abuse and neglect. They know how to report them. Staff are vigilant and make sure that the nursery is safe and secure.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to develop and apply strategies to further help children remember and understand a wide and rich vocabulary.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2526059
Local authority	Wakefield
Inspection number	10206587
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 at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Alpha Community Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900802
Telephone number	01473 322600
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Rhubarb & Custards registered in 2019. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including the manager at level 5. The nursery opens all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Andrew Clark

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 the evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector conducted a learning walk together to review the children's learning experiences.
- The children talked to the inspector about their activities.
- The manager and the inspector conducted a joint observation of children's activities.
- Discussions were held with senior leaders and members of staff.
- The inspector discussed the management and organisation of the nursery with the manager. He reviewed relevant documents.
- The inspector held discussions to seek the views of parents.

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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