

Inspection of Whitstable Day Nursery & Kids

Whitstable Day Nursery & Kids, Vulcan Close, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4LZ

Inspection date: 6 October 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 happy and settled at the welcoming nursery. They develop close, positive relationships with staff and other children. Children enjoy and understand the familiar routines offered, helping them to feel safe and reassured. They learn about each other's families, such as different languages and celebrations. Children learn about similarities, make comparisons, and learn to respect others and value their differences.

Children behave very well. Staff use specific praise with children to help them understand what they have done well. Children learn to share, take turns and respect each other. They have lots of opportunities to develop their physical skills. Younger children practise balance and coordination on the ride-on bikes. Older children learn to balance carefully on exciting climbing frames. Children are very well supervised and supported to take risks safely.

Children are developing a good level of independence. They tend to their own care needs, prepare themselves for the outdoor environment and clear their own plates after lunch. Older children learn to follow written instructions when making dough independently. They are quickly developing the skills they need for the next stage in their learning.

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

- Children are supported to develop a love of reading. For example, staff provide children with story props and help them to gather the things they need to create magic wands, following an exciting story about a witch. Children extend on the story within their role play, and staff support children's language development as they create fun spells and rhymes.
- Staff are interested in what children are doing and talk to them. Staff have high expectations of the children and offer suggestions to help them think about what they are doing. For example, with support from staff, children explore spices, adding them to dough and talking about how it smells and feels. Occasionally though, some staff ask children too many direct questions without giving them the time to think about what they want to say in response.
- There are very strong partnerships with parents. Despite the restrictions due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, staff make sure that they are available to speak to parents each day. They keep parents well informed about their children's development. Parents are extremely complimentary about the nursery. They particularly comment on the individual care and support that staff provide for both children and their parents. Members of the management team have a strong vision for the nursery and reflect continuously on how they can improve.
- Staff regularly assess children's development to identify what they need to learn

next. This informs the curriculum, which is based on what each child needs to make progress at their own pace. Staff focus on using the children's interests to spark their curiosity. For example, when children found what they believed to be a treasure box in the garden, staff captured their imagination effectively with exciting challenges and learning opportunities based on their discovery. These included treasure hunts, pirate stories and the exploration and creation of treasure maps.

- Staff are well supported by the manager and the provider. They are good role models for children and show enjoyment in their work. The manager regularly provides staff with supervision sessions and appraisals to reflect on their practice and well-being. This helps staff to make continual improvements that benefit children and ensure that staff are happy at work. Leaders and managers maintain a range of partnerships with other professionals in the community. For instance, they work closely alongside the early years team in the local authority and complete regular audits.
- Staff are attentive to children's needs. On the whole, staff interact well with children. However, some staff do not consistently identify when quieter and less-confident children need more support to help them fully engage in learning and play.
- Children learn to follow healthy lifestyles. Staff provide healthy and home-cooked food and make sure that drinking water is readily available for children. They cater well for children's individual dietary needs and allergies.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and her staff recognise signs and symptoms that would cause them to be concerned for a child's welfare. They know how to report any concerns they may have about any children or the adults they encounter. Staff attend regular safeguarding training to keep their knowledge refreshed. The manager follows safe recruitment procedures, and processes are in place to ensure staff continue to be suitable to work with children. The environment 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:

- give children more time to think about what they want to say before moving on with further questions during conversations
- provide quieter and less-confident children the support they need to engage fully in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2496632
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10191085
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	2 to 3
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Kindergarten Kids Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525809
Telephone number	01227 275590
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The nursery registered in 2018 and is situated in Whitstable, Kent. There are seven members of childcare staff employed. Most staff hold appropriate childcare qualifications, including two with level 6 qualifications. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. Funded early education is provided for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint observation was carried out by the manager and the inspector during unplanned experiences outdoors.
- The inspector held a discussion with the manager and the provider in relation to the leadership and management of the nursery. She looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of staff's recruitment, qualifications and their suitability to work with children. The inspector discussed children's learning and development with the staff team.
- The inspector spoke to parents in the outdoor area on the day of the inspection, and obtained written feedback for 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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