

Inspection of Monkey Puzzle Irthlingborough

Diamond Business Centre, Attley Way, Irthlingborough, WELLINGBOROUGH,
Northamptonshire NN9 5GF

Inspection date: 18 October 2021

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	GoodGood

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children enjoy attending this welcoming and inclusive nursery. All children receive excellent support from staff; they develop very strong and positive relationships and secure friendships with their peers. Pre-school children concentrate hard and work exceptionally well together, for example when building a fort. They are guided by staff to think deeply about how they want the fort to look when it is finished. Children discuss this in detail and successfully fix the large pieces together to make the walls and a gate. Babies build playful friendships with one another. They look for their friends and they giggle with joy as they play together. Two-year-old children show high levels of confidence for their age. They thoroughly enjoy playing the tambourine and do so with rhythm and in time to their favourite songs. They show pride in their achievement as staff and their friends give them a round of applause when the song is finished.

Children are curious and highly motivated to take part in the activities. They confidently make choices about what they do, and they behave very well. Staff help children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities to take a full part in nursery life. These children receive excellent one to one support, which enables them to play alongside their friends safely and to have the same experiences. For example, children smile with happiness when they are successful in pedalling a tricycle around the garden and laugh when they splash in the water tray.

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

- The highly effective management team work exceptionally well with the staff. They place a sharp focus on encouraging staff to continue to develop professionally. Managers successfully build on staff's confidence and recognise their individual skills, nurturing these to get the best from every member of the staff team. Staff say they feel valued by the managers who promote their well-being very effectively. The highly positive working relationships in all the nursery group rooms reflect their ethos to value every child as an individual. Staff show a real commitment to providing high-quality interactions and experiences for all the children.
- Staff show skill in their engagement with children as they play. They plan an exciting curriculum that builds on the knowledge children already have. Staff encourage babies' communication and language skills very well. They speak clearly as they play, helping babies listen, to understand and giving them time to respond. Babies smile as they reach out for a toy tiger and make a roaring sound. Pre-school children take part in natural and relaxed conversations with staff. Staff listen to children and extend their vocabulary when they use descriptive words during play, such as 'slimy' and 'slippery'.

- Staff provide children with positive support and encouragement that helps them rapidly develop confidence and learn how to share and take turns with toys. Children look out for their friends and show care for them. The atmosphere in the nursery is very nurturing and respectful. Staff respond to each child's needs. For example, they know which children find certain situations difficult, such as when they have a change of routine or during mealtimes. Staff help these children to cope with this in an extremely sensitive manner that promotes children's feelings of well-being.
- Staff speak to parents to find out about their children's experiences at home. Then they plan a rich variety of activities that widen and extend children's knowledge. For example, children develop a range of skills when they play in a pretend café. They learn about numbers as they use a till and pretend money and they practise their writing as they take food orders. Staff successfully engage children and extend their learning as they play with them.
- Staff motivate children to be curious and develop their social skills. They successfully use props to help two-year-old children begin to understand their emotions. Staff motivate children to be excited to learn how to associate different feelings with colours and share this with the toy. This helps children to talk about how they feel and has a positive impact on their behaviour and well-being.
- Parents say that the nursery staff are excellent in their care of the children. They really like the highly effective communication they receive during the day about how their child is doing and about the activities they are enjoying. Parents say they can see how their children are developing rapidly at nursery. In particular in their communication skills, their social skills, and their interest in making marks and early writing.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers place a high focus on keeping staff's knowledge of safeguarding up to date. Staff complete regular online training in child protection and they have team training days that have specific safeguarding elements to them. Staff are confident and secure in their knowledge of how to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse. They know how to record concerns and how to share the concerns with the relevant agencies. Those involved in the recruitment and monitoring of staff demonstrate a secure understanding of how to check that staff are and remain suitable to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY486073
Local authority	North Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10206383
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	145
Number of children on roll	166
Name of registered person	Little Whales Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP534330
Telephone number	01933770818
Date of previous inspection	24 November 201524 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

Monkey Puzzle Irthlingborough registered in 2015 and is managed by a limited company. It is situated in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. The nursery employs 33 members of childcare staff. Of these, 21 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and the deputy and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The manager, deputy and inspector completed a learning walk together to help the inspector understand the intent for their curriculum.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and the deputy. She looked at relevant documentation and checked evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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