

Inspection of Top Tots Daycare

25 Shrublands Avenue, Croydon, Surrey CR0 8JD

Inspection date: 22 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

Staff greet children pleasantly as they arrive. Children smile happily, and say goodbye to their parents without hesitation. Children's behaviour is very good. While playing, they show care and consideration to others. Children begin to become strong, independent and resilient as they build positive relationships. They are encouraged to think about their personal safety as they negotiate stairs or join in more lively play outside.

Children form strong bonds with their key person and other adults in the nursery. Babies show that they feel safe as they cuddle up to members of staff or walk around to investigate their immediate environment. Staff develop children's curiosity well. They organise sensory play that absorbs children's attention. Older children pat and squeeze dough, and younger children explore the water play in the garden. Babies build on their physical skills as they safely toddle around. Children are confident communicators. They follow simple instructions and make their interests known. Older children know how to engage in conversations, such as taking turns to speak and listen. Staff ask older children more complex instructions, and the children show their increasing understanding of the spoken word.

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

- Staff are knowledgeable about the children they care for. They understand their individual personalities and learning needs. Staff plan a varied curriculum, using regular assessments to build on what children know and can already do.
- There are effective systems to monitor the delivery of the curriculum to ensure that all children receive a positive start to their education. The manager provides good support and professional development opportunities to help enhance staff's teaching skills and confidence. Staff feel that they are highly supported.
- Staff communicate well with children. They give a meaningful commentary when children are engaged in activities. Staff ask children age-appropriate questions to develop their thinking skills. As children interact with play dough, staff introduce older children to interesting words such as 'squished' and 'knead' to extend their vocabulary. Younger children sing along to songs and listen to stories, which helps to promote their language skills.
- Staff work to promote a smooth and confident settling-in procedure for new children. Before children begin in the nursery, staff speak with parents. Together, they complete necessary records and share important information. This information enables staff to plan carefully for children's individual needs. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive good, targeted support. Staff meet regularly with families and other professionals involved in children's care to discuss their progress and plan their next steps in learning.
- Older children begin to talk about their feelings. Staff use stories to help them

understand different emotions. Children use an emotions board to let staff know if they are angry or sad. They learn to follow the daily routines that help keep them healthy and safe. Children are reminded to wash their hands at different times of the day, to encourage their self-care skills. However, on occasion, younger children wait too long for their lunch and become distracted.

- Children are developing their independence, in preparation for adult life. Older children confidently use the toilet themselves and put their coat on for outdoor play. However, some older children are not yet confident in interacting with the other children. Staff need to plan more support to help these children to extend their social skills.
- Children take part in a variety of interesting and stimulating experiences. They grow strawberries, tomatoes and a range of other fruits and vegetables. Children work with staff to care for the plants. This helps children to develop their understanding of changes in the environment and supports their understanding of healthy eating.
- Parents are positive about the nursery. They feel that they receive constant and clear communication about their children's development. Parents praise the staff highly for their dedication and the good-quality care their children receive. They value staff's support, such as books to read with their children at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager follows robust recruitment procedures to help ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. All staff complete a thorough induction so that they understand their role and responsibilities. They understand how to recognise and report any child protection concerns, including broader safeguarding issues such as the 'Prevent' Duty. The manager provides regular training to make sure that staff's knowledge is up to date. Staff are vigilant about safety and are deployed well to supervise children, especially around large apparatus in the garden. The manager embeds a culture of risk assessment and daily hazard checks into the daily routines.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- plan lunchtime routines more carefully, in particular in the baby room, to reduce children's waiting time and fully engage them in their learning
- strengthen support for older children who are not yet fully confident in interacting within the group, to develop their social skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY558161
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	10175186
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Sunshine Nurseries UK Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP909627
Telephone number	07983326201
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Top Tots Daycare registered in 2018. The nursery employs nine members of staff including the manager. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager, who holds an early years degree. The nursery opens all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Marvet Gayle

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 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 provider joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The provider and the inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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