

Inspection of The Old Bank Nursery

Former Lloyds Bank, 7 Park Street, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 9BE

Inspection date: 26 October 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
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 visibly happy and settled at the friendly nursery. They develop caring relationships with the nurturing staff, which helps children to feel safe and secure. Children have a good sense of belonging and positive levels of well-being and self-esteem. Children make good progress from their starting points. They display high levels of engagement, and are self-motivated and excited to learn.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They share, take turns and tidy away toys without being prompted by staff. Children are warm and kind to each other and happily play together for long periods. Staff consistently praise the children for their positive behaviour. All children are supported to develop feelings of empathy and an understanding of their emotional intelligence. For example, staff encourage older babies to talk about and model happy and sad faces.

Children are supported to develop their early literacy skills. Staff read to children in a way that excites and engages them, which fosters a love of books. Children confidently answer questions about stories and predict what is going to happen next. Children recognise rhyming words and count the number of crocodiles they see in the book.

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

- The dedicated manager, ably supported by his deputy manager, leads the team well. The manager undertakes staff supervision and appraisal meetings that help to provide support for their professional development. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of how children learn and develop.
- Staff know the children well and are fully aware of any gaps in their learning. They skilfully weave what children need to learn next into their play. Staff engage children in meaningful conversations and introduce new words into their growing vocabulary. Staff identify those children who need extra support with communication and language, and implement specific activities based on their interests.
- Staff help children to develop some independence skills. Older children learn to put on their coats and manage their personal needs. Babies are supported to feed themselves during mealtimes, which helps to develop their hand-to-eye coordination. However, staff have not fully considered how the environment supports children to make independent choices during their play to promote their independence skills even further.
- All children thoroughly enjoy themselves as they take part in group singing time. They become excited when a staff member plays the ukulele and make requests for songs they would like to sing. Children use their memory and recall skills as they repeat actions and words to their favourite tunes.

- Children and babies have opportunities to engage in physical activities outside in the fresh air. Babies have lots of fun searching for pictures of hedgehogs in a large pile of autumn leaves. Older children enjoy taking part in a jumping race while trying to hold a balloon between their knees. Children and staff laugh together as they race to reach the finish line. However, staff do not always consider how they can fully utilise the outdoor areas to further enhance children's learning and development.
- Staff support children's understanding of diversity and the wider world through discussions and activities that build their awareness of cultural celebrations and events during the year. Children have opportunities to learn about the local community. For example, they visit the church to take part in harvest and Christmas celebrations. They use their creative skills to make models of significant buildings where they live.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff discuss children's care and progress with parents. Staff offer ideas so that parents can continue their child's learning at home. Before children begin at the nursery, staff gather key information from parents. This helps staff to plan activities and build on what children already know and can do. Staff are professional and passionate about their work, which helps them to provide a welcoming and happy environment for the children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team and staff understand how to identify the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child is at risk. They understand how to report any concerns about children's welfare or the behaviour of another adult. Staff are mindful of the 'Prevent' duty, including the risk to children and their families of being drawn into extremism. Robust recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Thorough induction and ongoing training and support from the manager ensure that staff remain alert to their responsibility to keep children safe. Staff are qualified in paediatric first aid and food hygiene. This helps to ensure that children's safety is paramount.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review and enhance the learning opportunities in the outdoor environment to support children's development across all areas of learning, particularly for those children who prefer to learn outdoors
- review the organisation of resources to allow children to make more independent choices and decisions during play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY559207
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	10194093
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Kaleidoscope Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535270
Telephone number	01952463426
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Old Bank Nursery is located in Shifnal, Shropshire. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. One member of staff holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angela Hulme

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 manager and the inspector had a learning walk together to look at how the curriculum is planned to meet children's needs and development.
- A meeting was held with the inspector and the manager to discuss leadership and management arrangements.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and checked evidence of the suitability of the 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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