

Inspection of Monkeymoos Castle

Angola House, Angola Road, Worthing, Sussex BN14 8DU

Inspection date: 15 November 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 come into the nursery happily. They have warm relationships with staff, who are kind and affectionate towards them. Babies benefit from consistent care as staff follow their familiar routines from home when they first start. This helps them feel safe and settle quickly.

Children learn to do things for themselves, such as serving their own lunch with big spoons or helping cut fruit at snack time. They grow in independence and become more confident. Children choose whether they want to play inside or out in the garden. They practise their physical skills when using the outdoor equipment. They use their imagination and enjoy 'cooking' with leaves in the mud kitchen. Inside, babies focus intently as they explore different textures in the sand.

Children behave well. They wait patiently for their turn at the snack table and listen attentively when staff ask them to. They learn to be kind to each other and think about how their friends feel. Staff have high expectations for all children's achievements. They support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities sensitively. They make good use of additional funding to adapt the care and activities provided where needed so that all children are included.

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

- Staff get to know children well. They accurately identify any gaps in children's learning as well as what they need to learn next. They respond to children's interests and consider how they can add to children's experiences from home. For example, staff encourage children to try messy play activities and provide lots of outdoor opportunities for children who may not have access to a garden.
- Children of all ages enjoy stories and songs. Staff make stories interesting and engaging. They repeat new words to help broaden children's vocabulary and ask questions to encourage children to think about what is happening. Children have fun acting out 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' in the garden, using mathematical language as they move under and over the equipment. They communicate well with each other and share their ideas with staff.
- Staff provide a range of interesting experiences for children that help them gain useful skills for their future learning. Older children eagerly find objects that start with a particular letter sound or confidently count out blocks that are the same colour. However, staff do not always give enough thought to what they want individual children to learn from the activities they provide. This means that, at times, children are not fully challenged, or a task is too difficult for them.
- Children get along well together and develop strong social skills. They share their lives and experiences and talk about what makes their families special. Children who speak other languages hear staff use familiar greetings and words

from home. This helps children learn to value each other and extends their understanding of different people and communities.

- Parents speak highly of the nursery. They particularly value the welcoming and supportive staff team. They are confident that their children are happy and safe and are progressing well at the nursery.
- Although parents do not go into the nursery every day due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff make sure that they still provide regular updates at the door or through an online learning journal. However, they do not provide as much information as they could about children's next steps and how parents can further support their children's learning at home.
- Managers evaluate the provision effectively and identify any areas to improve. They have worked hard throughout the pandemic to support staff and the families that attend, including managing a number of staff changes. Managers provide effective support for the less experienced staff, which helps them quickly develop their knowledge and skills. They continually review the provision and make changes that have a positive impact on children's experiences. For instance, the younger children now have a dedicated outdoor space where they can play safely.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff have a secure understanding of their responsibilities towards the children in their care. There are robust recruitment procedures in place to help ensure staff are suitable for their role. Staff who begin employment before all checks are back are not left alone with children and do not have access to confidential information. Managers ensure that sufficient staff are present each day to supervise children effectively. Policies and procedures to protect children are in place and understood by staff, such as regarding the use of mobile phones. Staff understand how to recognise and report any child protection concerns. They work closely with other agencies where required.

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 focus more precisely on what they want children to learn from the activities provided, to help ensure children are appropriately challenged and make the best possible progress
- build on the good partnership with parents so that they are fully informed about their children's next steps and can continue to guide their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2580385
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10209719
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	83
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	Monkeymoos Daycare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535505
Telephone number	01903234679
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Monkeymoos Castle registered in 2020 and is situated in Worthing, West Sussex. The nursery is open from 7am to 7pm each weekday for 51 weeks a year. There are 10 members of staff who work directly with the children, eight of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children who are two, three and four years of age.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca James

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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 provider.
- The manager 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.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and regional manager to discuss the leadership and management of the nursery.
- Parents shared their views on the setting with the inspector.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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