

Inspection of Little Angels Pre School Ltd

St. Matthews Church, Harwich Road, COLCHESTER CO4 3HR

Inspection date:

2 December 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

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are extremely excited, motivated and keen learners. They cannot wait to enter the pre-school to begin their day of exploring through enjoyable and exciting learning opportunities. Children wave a cheery goodbye to their parents and skip off to find their named coat peg. Younger children identify their names alongside a picture, while older children begin to read their first name and surname, in preparation for their next stage of learning. Those children who wish to, help themselves to breakfast cereals. They follow the numbers for guidance displayed near each type of cereal. For example, they confidently scoop three spoonfuls of their favourite cereal into their bowl. Children competently pour their own milk and carry their bowls over to the snack table. Children are supported, where necessary, by the member of staff on snack duty that day. When finished, children wash and dry their cups and bowls.

Children are extremely well behaved. They show high levels of respect for each other and for staff. Children understand the pre-school rules and follow them superbly. For instance, they stand still quietly and listen to the staff when they ring a bell to explain what is happening next. As a result, children are well prepared for any routine changes during the pre-school day. Staff call for children's attention in this way and explain that they are setting a sand timer and when the sand has gone they will tidy up, or have circle time. Children joyfully thank the member of staff for telling them and return to enjoy their last few minutes of play.

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

- During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, staff and managers kept in very good contact with families who were unable to attend the pre-school. Parents comment on how well supported they felt during this time. On return to normal working, staff focused on supporting children's emotional well-being and helping them to feel safe and secure again.
- Parents speak extremely well of the staff and managers. They comment that their children thoroughly enjoy attending the pre-school and make exceptionally good progress. Parents say that staff and managers are receptive to feedback and endeavour to make any necessary changes to meet their children's individual needs.
- The staff team is strong. Managers support staff superbly to create a well-skilled and confident team of staff who clearly understand their roles and responsibilities. Managers provide expert support and coaching to ensure that staff are equipped to do their job and to deliver an exciting and fulfilling educational programme.
- Children are actively encouraged to take risks. For instance, at the snack table, children ask if they can try to cut the apple up. Staff facilitate this request by

supporting children to use a sharp knife. They explain how best to hold the apple for safety and help children to cut the apple into quarters. Staff do this in such a confident manner that children, in turn, know that they will be supported to try new things.

- Staff superbly support children's learning of mathematical concepts. For example, they make use of routine activities, such as snack time, to introduce and use mathematical language. They talk about the apple being 'whole', in 'half' and in 'quarters'. Children confidently name these fractions and engage excitedly in this discussion. After making a very long 'snake' from plastic tiles on the floor, children and staff lie next to the 'snake' and count how many of them it takes to reach the full length.
- Children who speak English as an additional language make very good progress in their learning. Staff use visual prompts and learn some core words in the children's language to help to communicate with them. Managers purchase books in the dual language of those children to help them to enjoy literacy and feel secure within the provision.
- Managers and staff use government funding well to support individual children's needs. They work with parents to establish the best use of the money to enhance children's learning and help them to reach their full potential.
- Children learn about the local community as they regularly go for walks and trips, such as to the local woods to collect leaves and other natural resources.
- Children thoroughly enjoy learning in the exciting and adventurous pre-school garden. They learn to manoeuvre different surfaces on bikes, create masterpieces in the well-equipped mud kitchen and explore volumes as they move water from one container to another. Children confidently dress for the outdoor weather, supported by staff where required.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff and managers are extremely knowledgeable about child protection. They regularly update their superb knowledge of safeguarding, for example through training and in-house activities, such as quizzes and team discussions. The provider follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff are suitable to fulfil their role. New staff receive a thorough induction to prepare them for their safeguarding responsibilities within the pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY359225
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10213018
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Little Angels Pre-School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905841
Telephone number	07805850662
Date of previous inspection	4 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

Little Angels Pre School Ltd registered in 2007. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 9am until midday, and from midday until 3pm. Children are able to attend for a full day from 9am to 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school 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 pre-school.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Children shared their views with the inspector.
- The inspector observed the quality of education provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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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