

Inspection of Bearhugs Nurseries Ltd

Phoenix Lodge, South Street, HORNCASTLE, Lincolnshire LN9 6DT

Inspection date: 8 December 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive at the setting, separating from their parents with confidence. They are happy in this warm and welcoming, home-from-home environment. Children show that they feel safe and secure with big smiles on their faces. They have developed strong attachments with staff, who are patient and nurturing in their approach. Babies have especially secure relationships with their key person. They move confidently around their environment, exploring the variety of resources on offer. Children of all ages relish the opportunity to be physically active when they play in the rain. Babies and toddlers show resilience as they jump and fall into puddles, pick themselves up with the support of staff, and laugh as they do it again. Pre-school children jump in muddy puddles and laugh when the water splashes in their face. Children enjoy striking a pose and bending and stretching in yoga sessions. This leads to new learning, as staff challenge children to attempt more complicated moves.

Children are well behaved and kind and considerate to each other. Toddlers ask their friends, 'would you like a go on the bike now?' Pre-school children thank their friends for preparing and serving them their snack. Children benefit from strong parent partnerships. Parents comment positively about their children's experiences at the setting. They speak highly of the food the children receive. Parents report that their children's, 'knowledge of the world, social skills, and communication skills have come on so much'.

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

- The manager is knowledgeable and passionate about the nursery provision. She leads a team of enthusiastic and dedicated staff who share her vision. Staff benefit from regular professional development opportunities. The manager supports staff to complete additional childcare qualifications. Furthermore, staff have attended a training course that inspired them to create cosy corners and sensory experiences in the room. This in turn helps children to engage their learning with calming opportunities.
- Staff provide a range of stimulating activities and resources. Children enjoy learning, investigating, and exploring. For instance, pre-school children and toddlers make salt dough to create Christmas decorations. Staff help children to develop good listening and attention skills and to follow instructions well. Babies press buttons on electronic toys to create cause and effect. This helps to promote their early understanding of technology skills. Children have a positive attitude to their learning as they concentrate and persevere for good lengths of time.
- Staff support and encourage children to have a positive attitude to problem-solving. When two children want the same resource, staff ask, 'what do you

think we could do?' Children reply, 'share and take turns'.

- Staff provide a curriculum that considers children's individual needs and what they need to learn next. For instance, babies are being supported with settling into the nursery to promote their emotional security. Pre-school children are learning skills to support their independence, in readiness for starting school. The emphasis for toddlers is developing their communication and language. However, very occasionally, staff do not make the most of opportunities to encourage children to develop their speech further.
- Children enjoy well-balanced meals, cooked by the on-site nursery cook. Staff discuss the benefits of healthy eating with children during snack times. This helps to support their understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Children develop increasing independence skills. They serve their food and pour their drinks. Staff encourage good hygiene procedures. Children brush their teeth after lunch and learn about why it is important to look after their oral health.
- Staff ensure that children get fresh air daily, regardless of the weather. Children enjoy being physically active. They engage in energetic outdoor play, such as chasing after the staff. The outdoor space provides many opportunities for children to develop their gross motor skills, coordination, and balance.
- Staff are mindful that some families lead busy lives and work long hours. Children receive good opportunities to sit at the table and eat together and to socialise with children of their own age.
- Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those children who may be at risk of falling behind. They respond with prompt and timely interventions. This enables early diagnosis and for support plans to be implemented without delay to help close any gaps in learning swiftly. Staff use additional funding successfully to enhance the outcomes for children. For instance, all children receive hot meals daily to help promote their health and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a thorough understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is vulnerable to abuse or neglect. They are familiar with the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children in their care. Staff have completed safeguarding training and regularly update their knowledge and skills. The manager has a safe recruitment procedure in place and checks the ongoing suitability of staff. Security within the nursery is good. The entrance door is locked to ensure unauthorised persons are not able to enter the premises. Staff carry out opening and closing checks to ensure that risks to children are minimised.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- focus professional development on raising the quality of support that staff give to children's developing language skills, particularly in the toddler room.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2529974
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10208431
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 10
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Bearhugs Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2529973
Telephone number	01507 523844
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Bearhugs Nurseries Ltd re-registered in 2019. They are in Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including three who hold an early years degree. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sharon Alleary

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 manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together in all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- 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 together.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to several parents and took account of written feedback offered.

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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