

Inspection of Woodlands Day Nursery

St. Helier Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1AA

Inspection date: 12 January 2022

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The setting offers a welcoming environment where children are happy and confident. Children settle well and swiftly build close relationships with staff; this helps them feel secure in the setting. Children separate from their carers confidently and quickly settle into the daily routine. Babies who are new to the setting seek out their key person for comfort when needed.

Children behave well and are motivated to learn. Staff plan activities based on children's interests, meaning children are excited and willing to have a go. Children enjoy playing outdoors. They confidently run, jump and ride their bikes around the open space with their peers.

Staff are good role models. They demonstrate and help children to understand how to look after their toys and equipment. Children demonstrate respect for their environment by picking up toys and encouraging others to do the same. Children enjoy healthy meals which are prepared on site. Staff help them to understand why they need to eat a balanced diet. As a result, older children confidently talk about how carrots help to develop their eyesight.

Staff teach children the value of working together and sharing ideas. As a result, children are very friendly to one another and share activities together.

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

- The manager has a clear vision for the setting and how they will support children's learning and development. She has a significant understanding of the backgrounds and experience of children outside of the setting. She discusses how making best use of the garden is crucial, because some children may not have access to a garden at home. In addition, she recognises children's levels of communication and language when they start at the setting. This means she is able to support staff in extending children's vocabulary.
- The development of children's vocabulary is a strength of the setting. Babies hear words such as 'sticky', 'slippery', 'wet' and 'runny' as they explore sensory activities. Older children learn about 'symmetry' as they create butterflies. Staff generally use questions well to extend children's critical thinking. In some instances, staff answer the questions before children have had a chance to do so.
- During story time, toddlers recall past learning as they call out the names of animals that feature on the next page. Staff ask 'can you remember what noise this animal makes?' and the children respond correctly.
- All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning. Staff have a sound understanding of

children's needs and how to meet them. They work very closely with external professionals to share practice and set targets that provide opportunities for all children to reach their potential.

- The curriculum of the setting is well designed and sequenced. Staff use their knowledge of child development and the children's interests to plan a wide range of activities. On occasion, planned activities in the youngest rooms may be too generic and miss opportunities to extend individual children's interests.
- Older children are very well prepared for school. The pre-school staff emphasise the importance of supporting children's emotional readiness and independence skills in addition to communication, language and literacy, and mathematics. This is evident as staff step back and talk children through how to complete tasks such as putting on their coats and shoes when going outside.
- Staff development is strong. The manager understands the strengths and development areas of her team. Staff have access to a range of training opportunities to build on their teaching skills. Supervision meetings are used effectively to monitor staff progress and ensure their well-being.
- Parents speak very highly of the setting. They feel fully involved in their children's learning and development. Parents comment that they have built strong relationships with the staff in the setting and value their efforts in supporting children's developments.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff demonstrate a secure understanding of procedures to keep children safe. All staff have completed safeguarding training, including the manager and leaders who have completed training for the designated lead. Staff know the signs which may indicate a child is at risk of harm. This includes wider safeguarding concerns such as domestic violence and the 'Prevent' duty guidance. Staff know how to report concerns. Staff closely supervise children and provide a secure environment to ensure they remain safe. When appointing new staff, the manager follows safe recruitment processes to ensure staff are suitable and have the skills they need.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance activities to include an even wider range of children's individual interests
- extend staff's use of questioning to provide even more opportunities to challenge children's critical thinking skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY250305
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	10217398
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 5
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	70
Name of registered person	Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP903617
Telephone number	020 8296 2467
Date of previous inspection	27 July 2021

Information about this early years setting

Woodlands Day Nursery registered in 1993. It is run by the Epsom and St Helier National Health Service (NHS) Trust and provides care for children of NHS staff working with Epsom and St Helier Hospitals only. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am to 5.45pm for 52 weeks of the year, with the exception of bank holidays. The holiday care is open from 7.30am to 5.45pm during school holidays. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 24 members of staff. Of these, three hold a degree in childcare, one holds a level 5 in early years, and a further 19 hold relevant qualifications at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Danny Lydon

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector observed staff and children together in the rooms and spoke to them at appropriate times.
- A meeting was held with the manager to discuss the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector reviewed documents relevant to the inspection process.

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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