

Inspection of Caterpillars Childcare Ltd

2-4 Wellington Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 9BA

Inspection date: 2 February 2022

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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children settle quickly in the homely environment of this nursery, where staff wear their slippers, join in with the children's play and clearly show they are having just as much fun as the children they are caring for. For example, as babies explore with foamy soap, the staff join in and get covered with soap too. Children demonstrate that they feel safe as they approach staff for cuddles. Close bonds are evident as children laugh and giggle and play with their friends and adults harmoniously. Children also smile and chat to visitors; they enjoy showing off their books and toys and share their ideas and experiences.

Members of the management team want children to thrive, and they encourage staff to support children to enjoy their learning. Children take part in interesting activities that staff plan, based on what they know the children like and their incidental conversations during the day. Children are motivated to learn and explore the good range of resources on offer. Staff are kind and value the children's efforts and achievements. They have high expectations of what children can achieve. Staff interact positively with the children and offer lots of encouragement as they play.

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

- The owner prides herself in creating a home-from-home environment where all the staff across the nursery get to know all the children. This helps children and their parents to feel a real sense of belonging right from the start.
- The owner and the manager reflect on their practice and value the input of the staff and the views of children and parents to make improvements to the quality of the provision. Staff benefit from training opportunities and supervision meetings. However, these meetings have not been as frequent recently. As a result, the systems to check that all staff are fully confident in all aspects of their role have not been as robust.
- Staff are good role models and help children learn how to share and take turns. Children understand the rules and boundaries and confidently explain that they should use 'listening ears' and 'not snatch'. Minor disputes are handled well by staff, who encourage children to think about how their actions affect others.
- Children develop strong bonds with their key persons, who speak about each child with genuine affection and interest. Staff monitor children's development closely and have a clear intent of what they want children to learn next. Staff put out resources and plan activities, and confidently explain why and how they think these will benefit the children.
- The activities staff plan are fun and engaging. Babies are enthralled by an interactive touch screen and toddlers take part in yoga sessions, developing physical skills such as balancing on one leg. Older children talk about their

families and, as a result, staff plan an opportunity for them to paint pictures of their family members and houses. However, at times, staff allow more dominant, talkative children to take over their attention. This means that quieter children are not always given the same levels of attention during their play, to help extend their learning even further.

- Children's good health is promoted well as staff enable them to have regular opportunities to play actively in the garden. They ride on wheeled toys and climb on the climbing frame. Older children problem-solve as they roll balls down ramps and work out the best angles for the ramps so that the balls roll down freely.
- Staff work closely with parents to support children with settling into the nursery. They provide regular updates to parents about their children's day and well-being, and support parents with how to support their child's development at home. For example, the deputy manager has created an information booklet for parents about potty training.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their duty to protect the children they care for. Most staff are confident in describing the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, and all staff know how to report any concerns about a child or a member of staff. The deployment of staff is effective and children are closely supervised at all times, inside and outside. The owner follows robust recruitment procedures and carries out the appropriate checks to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff firmly adhere to the nursery policies and procedures, such as not using mobile phones in the setting.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the frequency and use of supervision meetings to ensure all staff are fully confident in all aspects of their role
- support staff to adapt their teaching strategies more effectively to focus support and attention more equally among all the children, enabling those who are quieter to benefit more consistently from the good-quality interactions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY500869
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10221038
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	43
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Caterpillars Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535453
Telephone number	07786105298
Date of previous inspection	1 May 2018

Information about this early years setting

Caterpillars Childcare Ltd registered in 2016 and is situated in Farnham, Surrey. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for most of the year. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 13 members of staff who work directly with the children, nine of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2 and above. The manager is a qualified teacher.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicky Hill

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 and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.

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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