

Inspection of Little Smurfs Nursery Ltd

25 Whitmore Road, Birmingham, Warwickshire B10 0NR

Inspection date: 1 April 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive happily at nursery. Kind and caring staff greet them. This helps children to settle quickly, feel safe, and secure in their care. Children are content in the environment. They independently access the resources that interest them and enjoy the interactions they receive from staff.

Children enjoy their time in the outdoor environment. They have many opportunities to develop physical skills. Children practise their climbing, balancing and jumping skills on the climbing frame, ride on a range of wheeled toys and giggle together while they chase bubbles blown by staff. Other children practise their listening skills. For example, they sit with staff to talk about what they can hear outside. Children are thrilled to say they hear 'birds' and then a 'fire engine'. They make marks on their paper to record what they have heard.

Children behave well. They routinely use very good manners, saying 'please' and 'thank you', especially at mealtimes. Children respond well to guidance from staff to be kind and take turns. Older children learn to understand their own feelings and begin to manage their behaviour. Children develop positive attitudes to learning. They are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to prepare them for their next stages in learning.

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

- The manager has designed an ambitious curriculum for children's learning. Staff understand the sequence of the stages of learning that children need, to continually make progress. They know the children very well. Staff use the information gained from parents when children first start attending. This is in addition to observations and assessments to plan an exciting range of activities for children.
- Children show high levels of engagement in activities. They recall a trip to the supermarket and their interests' in the flowers displayed. Staff provide the opportunities for children to role play in a pretend florist. During play, children are keen to use their counting skills and operate the till to exchange toy money to pay for their bunches of flowers.
- Staff promote speech and language well. This includes for children who speak English as an additional language. Younger children acquire and use new words quickly. Older children develop clear speech and sentence structure. For example, children remember what they have learned during a past theme of minibeads. They talk about bees and remember how they make honey. However, on occasion, staff do not consistently provide children with enough time to process information and respond to questions they are asked.
- Children develop confidence and show high levels of self-esteem. They receive

lots of praise and encouragement from staff for their efforts and achievements. Older children express themselves confidently. For example, they take turns to sing at a microphone stand. Staff join in the song with other children, singing and playing musical instruments together. Children grin and enjoy the applause at the end of their performances.

- Children begin to understand about living healthy lifestyles. Staff provide them with healthy meals and snacks, paying close attention to children's dietary needs. Children talk with staff about foods that are healthy and foods that have sugar in them. They say they need to brush their teeth in the morning and before bedtime.
- Overall, staff promote children's independence. Children manage their personal hygiene and toileting needs successfully. They pour their own drinks and feed themselves using appropriate cutlery. However, staff do not consistently provide children with opportunities to further develop their self-help skills and do things for themselves.
- Children learn about the similarities and differences in themselves and others. They learn about different cultures through celebrating customs and stories. Children learn that different types of families may be different to their own. This helps children to recognise their uniqueness and develop respect for others.
- Managers provide staff with appropriate training to ensure they have up-to-date knowledge and skills. The manager encourages staff to reflect on their practice as part of their programme of monitoring. Amendments to the systems for planning enable staff to spend the most possible time interacting with children.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery and the friendly staff. They say they are happy with the daily information they receive on collection and the information about their children's learning and progress from the online system.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There has been a lack of oversight from leaders. They have failed to notify Ofsted of a new director, which is an offence. There is no impact on the safety of children because the individual has had their suitability checked by Ofsted, in recent checks. The manager and staff demonstrate an appropriate knowledge of signs and symptoms, which indicate that a child may be vulnerable to abuse. Staff know the procedures they must follow in the event they have concerns about a child's welfare. This includes the procedures to report concerns about the conduct of colleagues towards children. Leaders follow robust recruitment procedures, which includes background checks carried out to help ensure that staff suitability to work with children. Staff make routine checks of the environment to ensure that it is safe for children to attend.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure children are consistently provided with enough time to process information and respond to questions when asked
- provide opportunities for children to develop their self-help skills even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2589582
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10231524
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Little Smurfs Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2589583
Telephone number	01215824123
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Smurfs Nursery Ltd re-registered in 2020. The provider employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2, 3 or 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, during term times. Sessions are from 9am to 4.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Suzanne Taylor

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken this into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together to discuss the organisation and intent of the curriculum and how the environment is arranged.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching throughout the inspection and considered the impact this had on children's learning. A joint evaluation of the quality of teaching during an activity took place between the leader and the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to parents at appropriate times and took account of their views of the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the leader and the manager and discussed how the nursery is organised. The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

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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Manchester
M1 2WD

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