

Inspection of Rafa Kidzone

87 & 86C Wellesley Way, RAF Cranwell, Sleaford NG34 8HB

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

The provision is good

Children play cooperatively and learn how to recognise how others may be feeling. For instance, they understand that when they give their friends more dough to play with, it makes them happy. Children behave well and show a willingness to help others. Younger children receive praise when they help staff to wheel a trolley back into the kitchen after snack time. Lunchtimes are sociable occasions where children sit with staff and talk to them about their interests. They confidently talk about what they like to do in the nursery. For example, some children say that they are happy when they play with their friends. Older school-age children say that they like to be involved in running competitions.

Staff know children well and understand how they can support children's development, such as their ability to recognise numbers. For instance, staff ask older children to identify the numbers in the year they were born. Staff support babies and younger children to explore and investigate the objects around them. For instance, after staff show children how to use tools to bang on saucepans, they copy and explore how sounds can be made. Outdoors, children are physically active. Older children show good coordination when they jump on large soft-play shapes safely. Younger children develop strength in their legs as they climb in and out of toy cars and think about how they can make these move.

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

- Staff plan a broad and balanced curriculum that is based on children's interests and what they need to learn next. For example, staff encourage older children to remember what they have learned about space. Children remember the names of some planets, such as Mars and Jupiter. They confidently talk about their understanding of gravity. Children say that if they have a snack in space it will float away.
- The nursery provides care for many children from military backgrounds. The manager and staff support these families effectively, for example when parents face deployment. For instance, staff give parents and children 'deployment boxes' that includes adult information leaflets, toys and books. These help to prepare children and parents emotionally for when they are going to be separated.
- Children are supported to develop skills for future learning. For example, staff encourage older children to be independent during mealtimes and give younger children time to put on their own coats before they go to play outdoors. Children are encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating and learn the importance of good hand-hygiene routines.
- When staff read stories, they build excitement and use different tones in their voice to maintain children's attention. Children sit well and listen to stories.

However, during some planned activities, staff do not always manage to maintain children's interest, focus and concentration. Instead, children want to follow their own interests and do not always benefit from the learning being offered.

- The management team supports staff, including their well-being. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic when some staff were absent, the manager checked in with them regularly to support their welfare. However, the manager has not identified how professional development opportunities can increase staff's knowledge, particularly of how they can support younger children's speaking skills consistently. Occasionally, when staff talk to younger children, they do not encourage them to communicate or introduce new words to support their developing vocabulary.
- The management team, staff and parents work together to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children have targeted plans in place that are supported in the nursery and at home.
- Staff actively encourage positive behaviour and give children plenty of praise and encouragement. Children in the out-of-school club explain how they receive tokens for positive behaviour. They chat together about what they want to spend their tokens on. Staff in the out-of-school club work with school teachers to support continuity of children's behaviour. However, they do not always find out what children have been learning during their school day. This means that they are not able to complement the learning children receive at school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Security within the setting is good. A virtual doorbell allows parents to inform staff via an application on their mobile devices when they arrive at the setting. This helps to stop unauthorised people from entering the building, promoting children's safety well. Staff carry out daily risk assessments in each of the playrooms and outdoors to ensure that risks to children are minimised. The management team undertakes the necessary checks to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The management team and staff have a good knowledge of the signs and indicators of abuse. They know how and where to report any safeguarding concerns.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen staff's understanding of how to make greater use of planned activities to help maintain children's interest, focus and attention
- improve the professional development of staff to develop their knowledge of how to support younger children's speaking skills

- support staff to find out what children are learning at school, so they can complement the learning children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY475959
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10138593
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 13
Total number of places	150
Number of children on roll	211
Name of registered person	RAFA Kidzone Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533542
Telephone number	01400 262621
Date of previous inspection	22 June 2016

Information about this early years setting

Rafa Kidzone registered in 2014 and is situated in the grounds of RAF Cranwell in Cranwell, Lincolnshire. The nursery employs 34 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, six hold level 4, eight hold level 6 and the deputy manager holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and two weeks over Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.45pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Hayley Ruane
Sian Extence

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the management team and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager, deputy manager and inspectors completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed how they intend to implement the curriculum.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspectors throughout the inspection.
- The inspectors spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspectors carried out a joint observation with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspectors held meetings with the manager, deputy manager and quality assurance manager. They reviewed relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspectors.

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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