

Inspection of The Village Nursery

The Village Nursery, Third Avenue, Trafford Park, MANCHESTER M17 1JE

Inspection date: 1 June 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 are happy and safe at this warm and inviting nursery. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slightly altered their experiences, children show resilience as they adapt to changes. For example, they are excited to show their parents around their classrooms, now that visitors are allowed in. A successful key-person system means that staff get to know children well and support their well-being.

Children show positive attitudes towards their learning. They learn how to regulate their behaviour and feelings in an age-appropriate way. Babies persevere as they learn to crawl, walk and climb up low-level apparatus. They explore the sounds of musical instruments and babble with delight. Toddlers develop their small-muscle skills as they pick up leaves, using tweezers. They excitedly notice an ant outdoors while digging in the soil. Older children make their own play dough and use their imaginations to build a 'castle' with small construction blocks. Outdoors, they practise taking turns and develop their spatial awareness as they engage in ring games. Children are learning that they should value and celebrate similarities and differences between themselves and others, such as the way that they look and the languages that they speak.

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

- The nursery serves a diverse community. Its ethos reflects that 'all children are unique' and leaders explain the importance of recognising children as individuals. They say that every child is at the centre of the nursery. Accurate self-evaluation includes the views of children, parents and staff. This enables leaders to know how to further improve the nursery.
- Overall, children access a broad curriculum which follows their interests and current events, such as the Queen's platinum jubilee. This helps children, including those in receipt of additional funding, to make good progress. However, the curriculum has not yet been fully designed with a sharp enough focus on identifying the precise knowledge and skills that children need to acquire and in what order. This means that staff do not always consistently best support children's progression in learning.
- Staff promote children's communication and language skills well. They read stories and sing to children throughout the day. Staff interact with children as they play and encourage them to use new words. For example, toddlers repeat the phrase 'a small leaf' to compare sizes. Older children explain their understanding of the word 'celebration' and say that the Queen is a 'royal person who takes care of us'.
- The support in place for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is strong. Leaders and staff know how to support children's learning and care needs. They monitor interventions closely to ensure that

children with SEND make good and better progress.

- Care practices are good. Staff foster children's growing independence. For example, older children enjoy helping staff to make cucumber sandwiches. They help to set up the table for lunch and put their things away when they have finished eating. Children learn good manners and are confident to interact with visitors. For example, they are keen to point out and name the different letters on the inspector's laptop.
- Staff report that they enjoy their work and feel supported by leaders. For example, some comment that they have regained their 'spark' due to how passionate leaders are. Staff follow a comprehensive induction process and keep up to date with mandatory training. However, leaders acknowledge that the programme of coaching and support for staff needs strengthening, to raise practice to a consistent level across the nursery.
- Partnership working is effective. Staff engage well with external professionals, such as making links with other settings to support transitions. Parents describe staff as 'caring' and 'nurturing' and say that they get to know their children well. Staff provide information which helps parents to continue their children's learning at home. Leaders invite parents to exciting events, such as stay-and-play sessions and an afternoon tea party.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders carry out risk assessments to check that the premises are safe and secure. Robust checks are carried out to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff receive safeguarding training and leaders make sure that their knowledge is up to date. Staff have a broad understanding of safeguarding. They know the referral procedure and where to seek help if they have concerns about children's welfare or the conduct of a colleague. Staff understand safeguarding issues, such as radicalisation, grooming and poor attendance.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- sharpen curriculum planning, to identify more precisely the knowledge and skills that children need to acquire and in what order
- strengthen the programme of coaching and support, to raise staff practice to a consistent level across the nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY334615
Local authority	Trafford
Inspection number	10231601
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	131
Number of children on roll	182
Name of registered person	The Village Nursery (Trafford) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP908180
Telephone number	0161 876 7994
Date of previous inspection	6 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

The Village Nursery registered in 2006 and is located in Trafford. The nursery employs 33 members of staff. Of these, 25 hold early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

David Lobodzinski

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 provider and has taken that into account in his evaluation of the nursery.
- The management team and the inspector had a learning walk.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children throughout the day and evaluated the impact on children's learning.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and regional operations manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Relevant documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including evidence of the suitability and training of staff.

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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