

Inspection of The Wildlings Nature Nursery

Baggeridge Country Park, Gospel End, Dudley, Staffordshire DY3 4HB

Inspection date: 23 June 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 happy, excited and ready to start their day. They are gentle, kind and caring towards one another. For example, children wait for their friends and help them to climb the slopes in the woods. Children have positive attitudes towards their play and learning. They are inquisitive, enjoy exploring the natural environment and remain focused for long periods of time. Children build on what they have been taught as they develop their own ideas. For example, they use their problem-solving skills as they build dens and use tools, such as a bow saw, under close supervision.

Children develop good physical abilities and confidence to try new experiences. They crawl, run around and jump over logs. Children learn how to assess their abilities and keep themselves safe as they climb trees and explore the natural environment. Children concentrate well and persist with tasks. They use their imagination as they make up stories about what they see on their walks in the meadow, such as a spider.

Children develop a good awareness of healthy lifestyles and personal hygiene. They know to clean their hands after using the toilet and before they eat. Children develop key skills and attitudes necessary for future learning and their eventual move on to school.

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

- The manager and staff have high expectations for what children can achieve. They plan a stimulating curriculum that broadens children's experiences. Staff know the children well. They monitor them closely to make sure they remember what they learn and make the best possible progress. The manager ensures that children who are entitled to additional funding receive this, and that it is used to support any gaps in their development.
- The manager regularly reflects on the service she provides, involving parents, children and staff to help her to identify where improvements can be made. For example, she has built a woodland fire area so that children can learn to cook healthy meals. Children confidently explain how to pick nettles for the soup without getting stung.
- The manager supervises staff performance effectively and provides a focused programme of training to develop staff knowledge and refresh their skills. The manager carries out regular observations of staff teaching practice. All staff receive forest school training.
- Parents comment that their children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery. However, they do not receive enough precise information to help them to continue to support their children's learning at home.

- Staff create a welcoming environment within the woods and children develop strong bonds with them. Staff are kind and caring and manage children's behaviour effectively. Staff offer plenty of praise and encouragement. Children develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff use their good teaching skills to motivate and engage children. They plan a broad and challenging range of activities that match children's interests and learning needs. Children learn to count, recognise numbers and learn about capacity. However, at times, staff do not always support children to extend their understanding of mathematics beyond their current capabilities.
- Children develop high levels of resilience and confidence in their abilities. For example, a child perseveres as they push a wheelbarrow across fields, up slopes and through the woods.
- There is a strong focus on promoting children's language skills within the nursery. Staff capture children's interest as they read stories with good intonation and enthusiasm. They ask questions that help children to use their thinking skills. Staff encourage children to use their developing language skills to express their opinions and ideas.
- Staff use their good questioning skills to encourage children to use their thinking skills and develop their language. During story time, children learn about creatures that are nocturnal. Children link this to their own experiences. For example, a child talks about their 'noisy hamster who wakes me up'.
- Staff help children to learn within a natural environment as they explore their surroundings. Children talk about the 'mole hills' and describe the ants they find as 'the littlest creature on earth'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a secure understanding of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. They know where to refer any concerns they may have about a child's welfare. The manager has robust recruitment procedures in place to help deem staff suitable to work with children. Staff carry out daily risk assessments to help ensure that the learning environment is safe for children while they play and explore. The manager deploys staff effectively to ensure children are closely supervised at all times. All staff hold first-aid qualifications.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide parents with more precise information about their children's learning so they can continue their child's learning at home
- fully support children to extend their understanding of mathematics beyond their current capabilities during play and routines.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY561484
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10191383
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	3 to 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	The Wildlings Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP561483
Telephone number	07807624844
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Wildlings Nature Nursery registered in 2018. It operates in the grounds of Baggeridge Country Park in South Staffordshire and follows the forest school ethos. The nursery is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 3pm. It provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. The provider employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one who has qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karen Laycock

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 led the inspector on a learning walk and told her what they wanted the children to learn at the nursery. The manager and the inspector carried out a joint evaluation of an activity together.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, deputy manager and staff throughout the inspection. She looked at relevant documentation, including qualifications, and viewed evidence of the suitability of those working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day. She also spoke to children about their experiences in 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022