

Inspection of Little Saints Nursery

St Francis School, Haybrook House, Marlborough Road, Pewsey SN9 5NT

Inspection date: 30 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

Babies and toddlers are settled and happy. They respond positively to the friendly, caring staff and go readily to them for cuddles and reassurance. Staff create a comfortable, welcoming play environment. They are keen to support babies' and toddlers' progress and encourage them to learn through investigation and exploration. For example, toddlers laugh with delight when splashing their toys in the water tray. They have fun pouring water in and out of containers and begin to learn about the early mathematical concepts of 'empty' and 'full'. Babies and toddlers begin to develop their physical skills well, such as when climbing in and out of the colourful ball pool or up onto the low slide. They like going for walks with staff around the school grounds to see the chickens, or the boats on the nearby canal. Babies and toddlers are content playing alongside each other. Babies start to reach out for toys, such as musical instruments, and show excitement as they shake maracas and make a noise. Staff have kept in regular contact with parents and children during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have reviewed the arrival and collection arrangements put in place during the pandemic to help with social distancing, and parents are now able to enter the premises.

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

- Due to recent staff changes, the new staff team is still being established. Leaders are keen to continually review and develop practice with staff and, together, they have implemented positive changes. For example, they have reorganised the play environment and created more defined areas of learning. In addition, they have obtained further play resources to support children's interests in play.
- Babies and toddlers enjoy a variety of sensory play activities. They push their hands and feet through different textures, such as paint, shaving foam and cooked spaghetti, and show interest in the marks and patterns that they make. They develop curiosity as they explore the treasure baskets containing a variety of everyday objects. For example, they pick up and carefully examine a magnifying glass, a hairbrush or a wooden spoon.
- Overall, staff encourage babies' and toddlers' early communication well. Staff name the pictures of animals that children see displayed. Toddlers start to repeat these words. They develop their range of early vocabulary and begin to recognise familiar words from favourite stories, such as 'butterfly' or 'sheep'.
- Parents speak highly of staff and the nursery. They say that their children are happy and making good progress. Staff keep parents well informed of their children's personal care and daily activities. However, they are still establishing further ways to support a regular two-way flow of information with parents to involve them in all aspects of their children's learning more effectively.
- Staff have a calm, reassuring approach and use positive reinforcement well with

children. Staff continue to develop their knowledge about children's behaviour. For example, they have completed training to raise their awareness of strategies to help to prevent biting incidents. Staff praise children often for their achievements.

- Babies and toddlers enjoy healthy snacks and are keen to try the variety of fruit offered, including bananas, pears, apples and oranges. Staff organise mealtimes well to support children's early independence and social skills. For example, toddlers are keen to have a go at pouring their own drinks.
- Babies and toddlers show interest in the toys and resources. They begin to listen well as staff read a short story about a farm, using an interactive book. Toddlers like to press the buttons on the pages to activate noises. However, at times, children wander around the playroom, and staff do not engage them in purposeful activities. This does not support children's individual learning as effectively as possible. Nevertheless, staff are caring and get to know the children well. They recognise when babies and toddlers are tired and settle them for a comfortable sleep.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have reviewed the safeguarding policies, procedures and operational systems. They have used this information to improve the monitoring of safeguarding concerns and action taken. Leaders support staff's awareness of safeguarding. For example, they discuss safeguarding issues and scenarios at staff meetings and complete relevant training. Leaders implement suitable staff recruitment procedures. They assess the ongoing suitability of staff through induction and supervision processes. Leaders and staff risk assess the play areas and take suitable measures to minimise accidents.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the planning of activities to ensure that children are involved in play that gives a clear focus on supporting their individual learning consistently well
- continue to develop the arrangements for sharing information with parents to support their children's learning at home as effectively as possible.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY552671
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10237646
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 1
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of registered person	Hayfran Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP552670
Telephone number	01672 563228
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Saints Nursery registered in 2015. The under-twos unit of the nursery, known as Little Buds, registered in 2017. The nursery is situated in the grounds of St Francis School, Pewsey, Wiltshire. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.45am to 6pm. The nursery employs four members of staff. The manager and deputy hold childcare qualifications at level 5 and level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Mary Daniel

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 their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager took the inspector on a tour of the nursery and explained how the curriculum is delivered.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation and discussed the quality of teaching.
- The inspector observed children's interactions in play, indoors and outdoors, and discussed their learning and development with staff.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documentation, including evidence of qualifications and first-aid certificates.

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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