

Inspection of S4YC @ Portside

Portside Children's Centre, Egerton Street, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 2BY

Inspection date: 6 July 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 at the nursery. They are welcomed by warm, friendly staff at the door. This helps children to feel safe and secure. Children confidently leave their parents with big smiles on their faces. They settle to play quickly with their friends.

Children learn many new skills, which help to support their development and next stage in their education. For example, children's communication and language is a high priority for the nursery. They are taught simple sign language alongside vocabulary to support their language acquisition. Children are provided with many opportunities to be physically active outdoors. They enjoy exploring the climbing frame, digging in the mud kitchen, riding bicycles and scooters. Some children have mastered walking on low level stilts. Children squeal with delight at their achievements.

Children's interests are planned for through play-based activities, such as role play, water play, dinosaurs and number activities. This helps to motivate and excite them to learn. Staff have identified that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on children's social skills. As a result, children benefit from opportunities, such as playing games and small group work, to develop turn taking.

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

- The curriculum is ambitious, well planned and based on children's interests. Staff support the learning of their key children well. They know what children can do and what they need to do next. For example, children play in the water play singing 'Five Little Ducks' and develop their counting skills. Staff support children in their play. This helps to ensure all children make good progress.
- The indoor and outdoor environments are carefully planned. Children enjoy accessing a balance of planned adult-led activities, such as the parachute game. As well as leading their own play, for example selecting resources independently to draw. This helps engage children and maximise their learning.
- Routines are well developed across the nursery. Children wait patiently at the table for their food to be served. They demonstrate good table manners and social skills as they enjoy their healthy snack. Young children master the skill of using a spoon to eat their yoghurt. This ensures snack time is a pleasant experience for all children.
- Staff develop positive relationships with the children. Generally, they have high expectations for children's behaviour. This ensures the environment usually remains calm. However, on occasion some children struggle to regulate their emotions and behaviour. For example, children become frustrated when they cannot put their coats on. Staff do not always effectively teach the children how

their behaviour can have an impact on others and how to develop self-regulation skills.

- Leaders and staff know their families well. They gather information about every child when they start the nursery through an 'all about me' booklet. This ensures staff can plan effectively to support children's interests and prior experiences. However, staff do not always support children to learn about different cultures, religions and faiths other than their own. This limits their understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery and the support they receive from the staff. Parents value the face-to-face communication they receive at the beginning and end of each day from their child's key person. They are very happy with the progress their children are making, especially with their speaking and confidence.
- Staff well-being is a high priority for the leaders. Staff feel passionate about their job and are appreciative of the support they receive through staff supervision. They have access to online training, which ensures they are kept up to date with mandatory training as well as acquiring new skills in other areas. This ensures staff are continually developing their practice to support children's learning further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the policies, procedures and actions they need to take to keep children safe. They are aware of the possible signs which may indicate a child is at risk of harm. Staff know and feel comfortable with the procedures to follow if they have a whistle-blowing concern. They undertake daily risk assessment checks to ensure the nursery remains a safe place for children. All staff are trained in paediatric first aid. Health care plans are in place for children who require them. This helps to ensure all children are safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide opportunities for the children to learn about different cultures, religions and faiths
- support children to learn how to regulate their behaviour and understand how this can have an impact on others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY557128
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10174847
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 10
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	S4YC Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900701
Telephone number	077347 05559
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

S4YC @ Portside registered in 2018. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold early years qualifications between level 2 and 6. The nursery operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old-children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Yvonne Glaister

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery has received since registration and the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders, and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager, deputy manager and the inspector completed a learning walk to discuss the intent of the curriculum.
- Discussions were held with the director, manager, deputy manager and staff members.
- The inspector observed the quality of education and the impact this had on the children's learning.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents about the nursery.
- The inspector and deputy manager carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documentation, including staff suitability checks.

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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