

Inspection of Southmead Choices

Southmead Childrens Centre, Sherwood Drive, Prescott, Lancashire L35 3XZ

Inspection date: 9 July 2022

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Met

Previous inspection

Not applicable

Summary of key findings

This provision meets requirements

- Supporting children when they transition into the setting is a priority for leaders. They plan to replicate the systems that are already embedded for older children by collating a range of information from families and other agencies before children start. They will access any specialist training that may be required to meet children's individual needs. Settling-in sessions will be provided to enable children to become familiar with the setting and the staff and to help them to feel secure when they start.
- Partnership working is a real focus for leaders. They have established excellent links with a range of agencies and some local schools. They aim to use these connections to ensure they can regularly share information regarding children's individual needs and to complement their learning. They will share regular information with parents about what the children have experienced each session.
- Leaders are extremely qualified and experienced in meeting children's individual needs. They are aware of the importance of gathering children's communication needs. They plan to use the information to enable them to respond to children's needs and wants effectively. For example, staff plan to use visual aids and sign language to speak with children.
- Leaders demonstrate a thorough knowledge of how they would positively support children's behaviour. They would ensure staff take preventative steps to help children manage their emotions. For example, staff would ensure that children who do not like loud noises are more comfortable in a quieter space. Leaders plan to discuss the strategies that would help children to feel safe and secure with parents and other settings and agencies that are known to the child. They understand the importance of consistency of approach.
- Leaders value the importance of supporting children's independence. Children requiring help to manage their self-care tasks will be encouraged to take off their own shoes before staff complete personal care. They will be encouraged to wash their own hands throughout the session and to make independent choices about what they want to play with. Leaders plan to ensure children's independence is promoted at all times in the setting.
- Following a significant incident, leaders recognised some weaknesses regarding the sharing of information with parents. They took swift action to rectify this. They plan to ensure leaders oversee all accidents and incidents to enable them to identify any possible hazards to children, to ensure they remain safe.
- Leaders recognise the importance of effective risk assessments. They confidently identify risks in the areas that are used by older children and take steps to minimise these. They plan to review these risk assessments before new children start, to ensure they have taken into account any individual needs, for example possible choking risks or risks linked to medical needs.
- Leaders understand their role and responsibilities to safeguard children. They demonstrate a good understanding of how to recognise concerns that may indicate a child is at risk of harm and how to respond to this information. They

regularly update their knowledge by accessing training sessions, including specific training that focuses on safeguarding children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

There were no children in the early years age range present when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no early years children present, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states whether the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2565277
Local authority	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Inspection number	10239205
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	8 to 11
Total number of places	10
Number of children on roll	5
Name of registered person	Merseyside Youth Association Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2538987
Telephone number	07710503541
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Southmead Choices registered in 2020 and is run by a charitable organisation. The setting employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 5. The setting operates on Saturdays all year round, except for two weeks at Christmas. Hours of operation are from 10am until 1pm. The setting specialises in supporting children with SEND.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca Weston

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 nominated individual showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector reviewed some documents, including first-aid certificates.
- The inspector discussed with the nominated individual how they intend to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

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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