

Inspection of Just Imagine Day Nursery - Maldon

Highlands Drive, Maldon, Essex CM9 6HY

Inspection date: 26 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 happily and are welcomed enthusiastically by friendly staff. Children develop close relationships with staff, who know them well. Children make their own play choices from a good range of well-presented resources. Children are polite and behave well. They play together cooperatively and share the resources. Children develop good social skills and happily chat to each other, staff and visitors.

Children are inquisitive and curious. For example, they carefully fill different containers with sand, testing different utensils to consider which ones work better. They look intently at the shells they find in the sand and discuss the different colours and textures with staff. Children extend their own play and show good imagination. For example, they mix mud and water together until they are happy it looks like a 'cake mixture'. They say, 'we can pretend this is our oven,' pointing to a small table.

Children say they enjoy playing outside. They develop their physical skills as they push themselves along on the bicycles and scooters, showing good control. Children learn about nature and the environment. For example, they are keen to show visitors the sunflowers they planted from seeds and talk about the strawberries they grew and ate. Children water the plants and say, 'they need a drink'.

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

- The dedicated and passionate manager demonstrates a high-quality vision for the nursery. She shares her vision with the staff team, which welcomes and praises her new initiatives. Staff morale is very high. Staff feel their well-being is given a high priority and say they are supported well in their roles. As a result, there is a very positive and happy atmosphere throughout the nursery.
- Staff have a clear understanding of what they want children to learn. They plan purposeful learning to challenge and promote each child's learning. Staff provide opportunities for children to practise and develop their knowledge and skills. Children's progress is carefully monitored and reviewed by the manager. As a result, children develop good knowledge and skills in all areas and are ready for the next stage in their learning.
- The manager monitors the quality of teaching and promotes staff's professional development. Some aspects of teaching are outstanding. For example, staff use effective strategies to challenge children to think for themselves, such as giving children different choices to consider and testing out different ideas. However, during some group activities, staff do not always implement effective strategies to sustain children's engagement. As a result, some children lose interest and miss out on their learning.

- Staff talk to children constantly throughout the day. They show a genuine interest in what children have to say and give children time to consider their answers. Staff introduce new words during activities and discussions and children have good recall. For example, children confidently name body parts such as 'skull', 'ribs', 'triceps' and 'glutes'. Staff expand their vocabulary further by talking about 'calcium'. As a result, children develop good language skills.
- Staff provide a variety of opportunities for children to develop their knowledge of mathematics. For example, children enjoy creating pictures and patterns by drawing around brightly coloured shapes. Children demonstrate good knowledge. For example, they name simple shapes and say they have made a square by putting two rectangles together.
- Parents are very complimentary about the nursery. They say staff are friendly and approachable. Parents say they are well informed about their children's learning and how they can support this further at home. They value the daily feedback from staff when they collect their children. Parents comment that children 'learn so much and make good progress at the nursery.'
- Staff promote children's independence and children are familiar with good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before eating. They learn about their local community and celebrate some festivals. However, staff do not consistently support children to develop further knowledge about different cultures, festivals and celebrations that are important to them and their friends at the nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All members of staff are confident in identifying the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. They have a thorough understanding of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child's well-being or the conduct of a colleague. Staff complete training and have regular discussions to ensure their knowledge of safeguarding issues remains secure and up to date. Recruitment and vetting procedures are rigorous. An extensive induction programme and ongoing supervision ensures all adults are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the teaching of group activities more closely and implement effective strategies to extend children's engagement and raise the quality of teaching to the highest level at all times
- expand children's knowledge and understanding of different communities further and support them in learning about the different cultures, festivals and celebrations that are important to them and their friends.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2530287
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10208439
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 11
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	80
Name of registered person	Just Imagine Nurseries - All Saints Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2530286
Telephone number	01621 850660
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Just Imagine Day Nursery – Maldon registered in 2019 and is run by a limited company. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Opening times are from 7am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisa White

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 and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children and carried out joint observations of a group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working 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.

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