

Inspection of Waddles Nursery

75 Short Heath Road, Erdington, Birmingham, West Midlands B23 6LH

Inspection date: 28 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 Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The staff create a home-from-home learning environment, where children and staff have strong bonds. Children display their eagerness and willingness to learn when they listen carefully to staff during child-led activities.

Children are sociable and enjoy telling the visitor about the ice creams they are 'eating'. They offer an ice cream to the visitor and say, 'Here, have an ice cream, it is mint flavour'. The children have meaningful conversations with staff as staff ask the children 'How could we make the ice creams healthy?' Children are keen to tell the staff about different types of vegetables and fruit. The staff follow a healthy eating programme, which they consistently talk about during the day, promoting the children's knowledge of staying healthy.

Children enjoy picking their own herbs from the setting's vegetable patch to make 'soup' in the mud kitchen area. They copy staff who enthusiastically smell the herbs and encourage children to do the same. Children express how they are feeling when they touch the wet mud and add water, for example children smile and jump when they pour more water onto the mud; they listen to the sound and say 'splat'. Children are independent and collect and transport their own water using large jugs. Furthermore, children find their own wellington boots and aprons before starting a messy activity.

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

- Healthy eating is given high priority. Staff consistently encourage conversations about how to stay healthy when they ask children how many fruits and vegetables they have eaten during the day. Staff use the setting's vegetable patch to expand children's knowledge of how things grow and promote healthy eating.
- The staff implement a curriculum that focuses on the children's interests. Children have access to a range of activities, which cover all areas of learning. They learn mainly through child-led activities while being supported by staff, who use meaningful language to assist and expand their play.
- The leadership and management team have created an environment where children feel safe, secure and confident. Children enter the setting with big smiles and separate from parents and carers with ease. Children tell staff when they are feeling sad and staff use kind and encouraging words to comfort the children. Furthermore, children have access to mirrors and emotion symbols throughout the setting to encourage their self-regulation.
- Cultural differences and diversity are celebrated when children are invited to celebrate different religious festivals. Children have opportunities to share their differences during circle time, expanding their knowledge of diversity and the

wider community.

- The special educational needs coordinator is knowledgeable and ensures that ample information is shared between parents, outside professionals and staff consistently. Children have personalised plans in place, providing them with one-to-one sessions to progress them further in their learning journey. All children make good progress.
- Children demonstrate how they are learning through child-led activities as they take it in turns to make marks on the ground using water and brushes; they talk about the shapes and letters they can see. Staff use language that expands children's knowledge, for example they introduce animals and discuss their differences. However, when activities and routines are adult led, not all children are engaged due to the lack of preparation and organisation. Some children cannot find an apron or wellington boots and are left to join in midway through the activity. Younger children become frustrated because they have to wait for staff to provide them with handwashing resources prior to lunchtime.
- Parents express how happy they are with the setting and specifically mention how the staff recognise changes in their child's behaviour. The parents report that they receive ample information about their child's learning, which promotes parent partnerships.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management and leadership team have ensured that robust recruitment and induction processes are in place. They ensure that staff are aware of safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures immediately after they join the setting. This ensures that staff have the knowledge they need to be able to identify signs of abuse or other safeguarding concerns quickly, in order to seek and provide further support for children and families. The premises have had rigorous risk assessments completed to maintain a safe and secure environment to keep children safe from harm. The setting only employs adults who have achieved at least a level 2 qualification in early years, which provides the setting with experienced and knowledgeable staff. Qualified staff contribute towards promoting children's safety and welfare in line with early years regulations.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review and improve the way that staff prepare and organise daily routines and activities, to ensure children are accessing learning opportunities consistently throughout the day.

Setting details

Unique reference number	229015
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10116259
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Waddles Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP522917
Telephone number	0121 373 4827
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2015

Information about this early years setting

Waddles Day Nursery registered in 1990. It employs 13 members of childcare staff. The manager holds a qualification at level 6 and has early years professional status. All other staff hold qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nancy Hitchcock

Inspection activities

- This was the setting's first routine inspection since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The manager and inspector held discussions about the impact the pandemic had on the children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager about the curriculum and the impact it has on the children.
- The inspector observed activities with the manager and discussed the impact it had on children's learning.
- The manager provided relevant documentation for the inspector to check the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with parents and has taken their views into account.

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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