

Inspection of Willow Childcare

Willow Childcare, Greenway Avenue, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4RR

Inspection date: 28 July 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children gladly enter the nursery. Staff greet them warmly, offering hugs. Children are extremely happy and engage quickly in play. All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make rapid and exceptional progress. This is because the head of centre and staff are very ambitious for them. Staff design and implement a well-sequenced curriculum that centres around each individual child. Babies learn to take turns as a member of staff rolls a cylinder towards them. The babies take turns to roll it back and forth. Toddlers learn to count the number of sandcastles they have made. Staff expertly support them to count. Pre-school children learn to write new words as they label portraits they have created.

Children behave extremely well. Staff support pre-school children to resolve conflict between themselves and other children. This helps children to begin to recognise the needs of others. Children are very respectful towards staff and each other. They care for and look after their environment. For example, toddlers gently explore leaves in the garden. They remind their friends to be kind to the leaves. Children are very calm and confident. Staff support and encourage them to keep trying when activities are challenging.

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

- The leadership team is incredibly thoughtful and reflective. They constantly review practice to ensure they give children rich experiences and that they are ready for the next stage in their learning. Leaders find innovative ways to improve all areas of the provision. They strive for the best outcomes for children. The head of centre inspires staff and motivates them to train and develop their already incredible practice. She is very supportive and nurturing and ensures that staff's well-being is positive.
- Children make excellent progress with their communication skills. Babies rapidly learn new words. Staff skilfully model and repeat everyday words as they play. For example, during snack time, babies have a go at repeating words like 'melon' and 'orange'. Toddlers learn rhymes and patterns in speech as they gleefully join in with a group song time. Pre-school children recall what they know and think of new ideas as staff use open-ended questions.
- The head of centre has implemented an extremely effective key-person approach to ensure children have a special adult to look after them. Children develop excellent, close relationships with them. This helps all children to feel safe and secure as they know they will have their needs and interests met. Staff plan activities and effective support to help children achieve their next steps. They use the detailed knowledge they gather from their key children to do this.
- Children with SEND have their needs met extremely well. The staff are incredibly

supportive and inclusive. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) ensures all staff know the strategies needed to support each child. This means children with SEND can access all areas of learning at their pace. The SENCo works incredibly well with outside agencies. This ensures families and children have all the right support they need to succeed.

- Children become highly independent and develop excellent self-help skills. Babies have lots of 'tummy time' to develop their core muscles so they can move about freely. Toddlers learn to express their needs verbally and to feed themselves with a knife and fork. Pre-school children choose where to play and to be independent with their care needs.
- Children develop an excellent awareness of a healthy lifestyle. They skilfully develop their physical skills as they balance, climb, run, build and pedal about in the garden. They eat extremely healthy home-cooked meals and enjoy sitting at tables with their friends. Children become aware of their bodies and how they function. They do this through activities and opportunities offered by the expert staff. For example, pre-school children feel their pulse as they learn about what the heart does in our bodies. They talk about the skeleton and how it protects the heart.
- Partnerships with parents are extremely effective. Staff share each child's day and achievements with parents when they collect their child. Parents of pre-school children come into the setting termly to meet their child's key person. They celebrate their children's achievements. Staff create beautiful and reflective learning journals for each child which show children's progress and next steps. They share these regularly with parents.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have robust knowledge of their duty to keep children safe from harm. They confidently identify signs and symptoms of all categories of abuse including the 'Prevent' duty. They know how to confidentially record and report any concerns and how to take action to ensure the well-being of any children they are concerned about. Staff carry out regular risk assessments to minimise risk to all children and adults. Leaders ensure all staff receive thorough training for all health and safety policies and procedures. They also have very effective systems in place to recruit and ensure the ongoing suitability of staff to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2545201
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	10214472
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	0 to 10
Total number of places	156
Number of children on roll	174
Name of registered person	Willow Childcare
Registered person unique reference number	2545200
Telephone number	01752 347170
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The setting re-registered in 2019. It is situated next to Woodford primary school in Plymouth, Devon. It opens from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year. The setting receives government early years funding for two-, three-, and four-year-old children. There are 29 staff. Of these; two have early years teacher status, two have early years professional status and two have a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Early Childhood studies. There are nine staff with a relevant early year's level 3 qualification and five with a relevant early year's level 2 qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Sian Bath

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 head of centre and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while at the setting.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The SENCo spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this is having on children's learning.
- The room leaders and the inspector carried out joint observations of group activities.
- 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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