

Inspection of YMCA Little Shoots Day Nursery

Longmeadow Primary School, Broadcloth Lane, Trowbridge BA14 7HE

Inspection date: 18 August 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 settle quickly, showing how safe and secure they feel at the nursery and with the caring staff. They are busy and engaged in their learning. They choose what they would like to do and focus well. For example, children use marker pens on ceramic tiles to write letters and draw pictures and then enjoy wiping these off to start again. Children play well together and happily take turns, for example when rolling a ball between them. They sit patiently during group activities, paying attention and listening to stories. Children confidently chat during their play. For example, they exclaim that the jelly is 'so sticky' when they put their hands in it.

Staff make effective use of observation and assessment to identify children's interests and what each child needs to do next. They incorporate this into their planning and their support for child-led play. Staff interact well with children and provide lots of praise and encouragement. They have high expectations for all children. Staff tailor support to ensure that every child, including those who need additional help, makes good progress from their individual starting point.

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

- Staff implement effective strategies to help children who need additional support with their communication and language skills. They use various specialist programmes, model accurate language to the children and work with other agencies. Staff also provide effective support for those children who are learning English as an additional language. This includes asking parents for key words in the child's home language and using these to help children settle and understand what is happening.
- Children develop independence skills. They wash their hands without assistance, help to tidy up and make independent choices about their play. They move around the nursery with confidence. For example, they decide whether to play indoors or outdoors. Children enjoy taking responsibility for jobs, such as putting out the plates at snack time.
- Children behave well. They respect one another's space as they crowd around an activity with jelly and then later sit to listen to a story. They willingly share resources and take turns. Staff remind children of rules, such as using their 'listening ears'. They provide a soothing approach to children who become frustrated, helping them to calm down and explain what the problem is.
- There is a strong focus on children's health. Children spend a lot of time outdoors in the fresh air where they can exercise and develop their fine- and gross-motor skills. This is particularly important for those children who do not have a garden at home. Children also grow produce which they have raised from seed, such as runner beans and tomatoes. Staff discuss with children what foods

are good for them and have been working with parents to ensure that packed lunches are nutritious.

- Staff have strong partnerships with parents. They share information about their children's progress and help them seek appropriate support, such as signposting them to medical professionals if required. They provide resources, such as activity bags, to enable parents to support their children's learning at home. Staff also provide practical support for parents. For example, they run a 'swap and shop' where parents can get second-hand children's clothes.
- The manager is enthusiastic and keen to develop the provision further. She has already made changes, such as installing artificial grass to improve the outdoor play surface. She has also introduced 'in the moment' planning. Staff are still developing their skills in this area and, at times, do not extend children's learning as fully as possible.
- The manager and staff understand the importance of sequencing children's learning to ensure that children build the foundations they need before moving on to the next step in their learning. They remind children of previous experiences, such as when they collected blackberries in the garden, and then build on this by making a crumble. The manager and staff know what they want individual children to learn, although there is some lack of clarity about the overall curriculum.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff regularly complete safeguarding training and managers keep their knowledge up to date through regular discussion and quizzes. Staff confidently explain the possible signs that a child may be at risk outside the nursery and know what to do if they have concerns. They also know what to do if they are concerned about the conduct of their colleagues. Staff understand their responsibility to protect children and know how to escalate their concerns outside the organisation. Children learn about how to stay safe. For example, staff help them learn to balance so they do not fall off play equipment.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop staff's knowledge of the curriculum to ensure a more consistent and shared understanding of what children need to learn
- enhance monitoring and coaching of staff to further improve their teaching practice and support for children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2594614
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10249206
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	YMCA Brunel Group
Registered person unique reference number	2594616
Telephone number	01225 754777
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

YMCA Little Shoots Day Nursery registered in 2020. It is situated in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. It is open from 8am to 5pm every weekday, 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for education sessions for children aged two, three and four. There are nine members of staff. Of these, five have childcare qualifications at level 3, two have childcare qualifications at level 2 and two are unqualified.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Catherine Sample

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 joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/ disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- Parents shared their views on the setting with the inspector.

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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