

Inspection of Inquisitive Minds Pre-school and Day Nursery

Trinity Hall, Victoria Road, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 3AL

Inspection date: 24 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 clearly feel safe, secure and comfortable in the nursery. They are keen to engage with staff, who respond warmly, building secure relationships. Children behave well and show care and consideration to others. For example, when a child notices another child has fallen over, they immediately give the child a cuddle and reassure them alongside the member of staff. Staff have high expectations for the children to achieve. The curriculum is tailored to children's individual needs and interests. Staff encourage children to 'have a go' and the children respond well, persevering until they master a new skill, such as following a line of stepping stones without falling off.

Children with additional needs are particularly well supported. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) and management team have a secure knowledge of child development and the various systems that offer support. This enables nursery staff to secure additional funding to specifically target areas of development and provide individual tailored support. Consequently, children make good progress given their starting points.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the setting adopted a system for parents dropping off children at the door and they feel that this is effective. Parents report that staff maintain strong relationships, and they particularly like the online system which allows them to receive updates throughout the day. Parents state that their children are making good progress and they feel this is down to the dedicated staff.

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

- Children benefit from healthy, nutritious meals and lots of opportunities to exercise and move their bodies in different ways. Staff encourage children to suggest ways to move, such as pretending to be butterflies, as they move around the outdoor area. Children are beginning to recognise the importance of oral health. Staff use resources to encourage children to learn how to keep their teeth healthy and encourage regular tooth brushing.
- In general, the quality of teaching is good. Staff know the children well and plan for the next steps in their learning effectively. Staff use children's individual needs and interests to make sure activities and learning opportunities are relevant to each child. For example, babies show interest in animals, and staff provide different types of animals and their environments to help the children to make good progress. Older children enjoy planting herbs and talking about what seeds need to help them grow into healthy plants. Each child has the opportunity to plant their own and take them home to observe them growing. On the odd occasion, teaching is not consistently good. For example, during

story time and singing sessions, some children lose interest and become distracted.

- Staff build positive relationships with parents. They use various methods to keep parents fully informed about their child's time in the nursery. Parents use the online system to contribute about what their children are doing at home, and this gives staff an accurate picture of the child's progress at home and in the nursery.
- Management and staff have recognised the impact the pandemic has had on children's speech and language and their personal, social and emotional development. They have targeted these areas particularly with children aged two to three years to help them catch up. Staff sing lots of rhymes and read a wide variety of stories to help children progress in these areas. The children work in small and large groups to develop their confidence and socialisation skills.
- Staff report that they are particularly well supported by the exceptionally caring and passionate management team. They have excellent opportunities for their continued professional development, and the majority of staff are trained to a high level. Managers consistently consider staff well-being and have regular meetings to give staff the opportunity to talk about anything both professional and personal. Consequently, they retain staff who feel valued and respected.
- Children's behaviour throughout the nursery is good. Babies learn to share and take turns, supported by the nurturing staff. Older children independently use sand timers, which allows them to negotiate when it is their turn. Children actively tidy up and show high levels of independence. For example, after lunch, they wash their own plates and cutlery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

This management and staff have a good understanding of safeguarding children and their families. There are policies and procedures in place which are implemented in the event of a concern about a child's welfare. Managers have effective procedures in place, such as regular quizzes and discussions with staff, to make sure their knowledge is up to date. There are good recruitment and vetting procedures and induction systems to ensure staff are suitable for their roles and responsibilities. There are risk assessments in place and staff support children in learning how to take controlled risks safely in the environment. However, on occasions, staff identify a risk, such as a broken piece of equipment, but this is not removed swiftly to address the risk.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop the quality of teaching to make sure it is consistent across all areas of nursery
- review risk assessment systems to make sure any damaged equipment is removed swiftly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2553309
Local authority	Swindon
Inspection number	10237796
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	130
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Tips4choices CIC
Registered person unique reference number	RP537548
Telephone number	07931395615
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Inquisitive Minds Pre-school and Day Nursery registered in 2019 and operates from Trinity Hall in Swindon. The setting operates Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm. A team of 16 staff work directly with the children, 14 of whom are qualified to at least level 3. The setting follows the Montessori ethos.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lorraine Sparey

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 management and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager and the inspector observed an activity together and completed a learning walk where they reflected on the quality of teaching and learning and the curriculum on offer.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and the SENCo at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed documentation such as staff information, training and information shared with parents through their online system.
- The inspectors spoke with the managers to establish how they monitor and evaluate the provision.

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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