

Inspection of Little Starz Day Nursery

89 Ebdon Road, Worle, Weston Super Mare, Avon BS22 6US

Inspection date: 1 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The nursery is very welcoming. It is clean and bright with interesting displays. It is well organised, so children can move about freely and feel safe and secure. Children have close bonds with their key persons. They benefit from sharing well-planned activities, which give them opportunities to learn across a broad and balanced curriculum. Staff have high expectations and focus particularly on helping children with their social and language development. Children make good progress and are active learners.

Children are very well behaved. They keep busy and play happily together, sharing ideas, and are eager to learn new things. They listen to and follow instructions well. For example, they line up to ensure they come in from outside safely. Children listen to stories and songs attentively. They remember rhymes and recall the events in a story. For example, they know how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

Parents are very pleased with the information they receive about their children's progress and the support that the setting offers their families. Leaders acknowledge the difficulties that parents face following the COVID-19 pandemic and offer support to minimise anxiety, such as by retaining routines that help children settle quickly.

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

- Managers constantly seek to improve the quality of the setting and consult with staff regularly to gather their ideas and aspirations. They try out new ways of planning to enhance the provision, and monitor the effectiveness of the planning and assessment, so that children do not have gaps in their learning. Management uses additional funding effectively by the provision of extra resources and specialist staff to meet children's needs.
- The curriculum is organised and adapted appropriately for the children's developmental level and those with additional needs. This helps staff plan effectively. However, there is some inconsistency in the understanding of the learning intent of some activities which means some learning opportunities are missed.
- Staff are supported well by managers through regular meetings and have opportunities to pursue their professional development through further training, such as portage work. This means staff have a clearer understanding of how to break down learning into achievable steps.
- Staff know the children very well and are very sensitive to children's emotional needs. Their kind and nurturing approaches support children in timely and effective ways to enhance the children's well-being.

- Staff help children learn independent skills. For example, they help babies with the sequence of washing their hands after messy play and support toddlers who are learning to use cutlery.
- Staff are clear about next steps for children and use every opportunity for children to learn through everyday activities. For example, by introducing counting when children are jumping off the pallets or counting the spoons for lunch.
- Staff listen to children and respect their views and efforts. For example, children bring in special collections of pine cones and leaves. Staff make sure that these are valued, incorporating them into the day's activities.
- Staff skilfully adapt activities to help children pursue their own imaginative ideas, such as when children want to extend the tissue paper 'hair' all around the plate to make a 'mane'. However, there are some instances when children are not being sufficiently challenged and encouraged to develop their critical thinking to solve problems.
- Children have opportunities to learn about the diverse local community by taking bus trips to the shops or the library and walks to the local park with staff.
- When children move on to the next stage in their learning, there is opportunity for them to become familiar with the local primary school and reception teacher. Staff with key roles attend school entry meetings to ensure continuing support for children with additional needs.
- Parents speak highly of the staff and the support they give to the families, especially to those whose children have additional needs, which includes sharing ideas about home activities. They welcome the information and photographs that are sent regularly about their children's interests and what they have been doing day to day. Parents appreciate using the online tool to be able to relay their own messages and information. They also appreciate how well the setting keeps them informed, during parents' evenings, for example.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a secure level of knowledge of child protection. They are able to recognise signs of abuse and neglect, and they know what to do in the event of a disclosure. They know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child, and the referral process to outside agencies. Staff receive regular training in safeguarding. Leaders check the suitability of staff and have a sound staff recruitment process in place. All staff are trained in paediatric first aid and food hygiene. Leaders and staff know how to deal with accidents, and they record details clearly.

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 deeper understanding of the intent of the curriculum so that children gain greater benefit from the learning opportunities during activities
- provide further opportunities for children to develop their critical thinking and learn to solve problems.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY386891
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	10235271
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	61
Number of children on roll	121
Name of registered person	Owen, Nina
Registered person unique reference number	RP514264
Telephone number	07531439465
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

Little Starz Day Nursery registered in 2009. It operates from Worle, in Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 26 members of staff; of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, 21 staff hold early years qualifications at level 3, one at level 2 and there are two unqualified staff, and a chef.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Margaret Dobbs

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 and the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they like to do and learn
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual and manager about the leadership and management of the setting, including reviewing relevant documentation.
- 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 of an activity with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of 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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