

Inspection of The Garden Nursery at Wilmslow Prep

Wilmslow Preparatory School, 7 Grove Avenue, WILMSLOW, Cheshire SK9 5EG

Inspection date: 28 September 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 are warmly welcomed with smiles and conversation by the passionate staff of this wonderful nursery. Children who speak English as an additional language are greeted in their home language. The overall sense of staff's enthusiasm enhances children's sense of belonging. Visual images of the daily routine help children to feel safe and secure in the environment as they know what to expect next.

Children actively engage in a variety of rich experiences. For example, babies use all their senses as they smell and taste sour lemons and squeeze oranges in their water play. Toddlers smell cinnamon and add thyme to paint, telling the inspector that it feels 'like sugar'. Children hear and learn new words as they explore sensory materials. Older children work collaboratively in imaginative play. For instance, outdoors, they pour and mix water with mud and fresh herbs and discuss if it is a mint or strawberry pie. Children have time to become immersed in their play as they speculate and test their own ideas.

Children listen attentively and join in with songs and nursery rhymes. They eagerly anticipate what is in the box and call for 'bubbles' as they sing 'Tiny Tim'. Staff swiftly respond and blow bubbles to the delight of the children. Children develop their communication and language skills. Children are highly motivated learners as they access a range of materials in the indoor and outdoor spaces. Older children push a wheelbarrow up and down a hill. They tell the inspector, 'It's heavy; it's got water and mud in it.' Toddlers learn to hold pencils as they make marks or stretch and roll play dough. Children develop good control of their small and large muscles.

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

- The management team is reflective and has designed an ambitious vision for the delivery of high-quality care and education for children. Managers work with their team and other professionals to regularly evaluate the nursery and drive improvement. Staff are excellent role models, and children build on what they already know and make good progress from their starting points. However, occasionally, learning intentions are focused on a 'school ready' agenda and are too advanced for the age and stage of individual children.
- Staff foster children's independence well. Younger children find images of themselves for self-registration. Older children put on their own coats and shoes and change into wellington boots before going into the outdoor forest area. Children who are toilet training make excellent progress as they are regularly supported by staff. Children wash their hands before mealtimes and after using the toilet. Children learn hygiene practices and are increasingly independent when managing their personal needs.

- Partnership with parents is effective. Staff use an online system and face-to-face communication to keep parents informed about their child's progress. Parents speak highly of the staff and feel that they know their children well. They praise the team for the support it gives children to settle at the nursery. Parents say that their children are happy and safe at the setting.
- Staff give high priority to children's emotional well-being. Pre-verbal children use 'emotion stones' to express how they are feeling. The nursery links with outside agencies to increase children's concentration through relaxation and yoga classes. Children build on their existing emotional vocabulary and learn breathing techniques to support their emotional well-being. This approach contributes positively to the way children behave.
- Children are valued and contribute positively to the nursery. They join staff in looking for potential hazards in the outdoor areas. They vote for stories and take turns in sharing resources. Staff model good manners using clear and calm voices when talking with children. Children are treated with respect, and this boosts their confidence and self-esteem.
- The manager is extremely knowledgeable and dedicated to her role. She takes an active role in the daily events of the nursery. She monitors individual children's progress through dialogue and regular supervision meetings with staff. Assessments of children's development are focused and precise. This helps to ensure that any gaps in learning are swiftly closed. Staff speak enthusiastically about the support that they receive. Children make good progress from their starting points and are ready for the next steps in their learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a secure knowledge of the indicators of potential abuse and the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child's welfare. Risk assessments are carried out daily to minimise any potential hazards, and all areas of the premises are safe. Stringent recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. Leaders and staff know about a broad range of safeguarding issues, such as the 'Prevent' duty and county lines. Staff attend regular training to keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- sequence learning intentions to ensure that they are consistently appropriate for the age and stage of individual children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2589073
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10249145
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	0 to 3
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	Cheshire Childcare Alliance Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911244
Telephone number	01625 527739
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Garden Nursery at Wilmslow Prep registered in 2020. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. All staff hold recognised early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year around. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angela Hayward

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.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- 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 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022