

Inspection of Explorers Aveley

Community Hub, High Street, Aveley RM15 4BY

Inspection date: 14 November 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 eagerly to this welcoming setting, excited to begin their day. They separate happily from parents, which demonstrates that they feel safe and secure at this nursery. Staff welcome children and help them to self-register. This helps all children to feel included and a sense of belonging. Staff know children very well and have formed good relationships with them. They are supportive and responsive to children's interests and use these to build upon what they already know and can do. Children demonstrate positive attitudes to learning by showing curiosity in the activities available. For example, children stand up at group times and identify what activities are on offer for their friends to explore.

Children's well-being is at the centre of this nursery. The dedicated manager has a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality and inclusive care and education to all children. Staff provide an inclusive environment that supports children to understand their feelings and regulate their own emotions. Children behave very well and show good awareness of the boundaries and routines of the nursery. They take pride in carrying out special responsibilities, such as acting as lunchtime helpers, throughout their day. This helps them to gain a sense of responsibility.

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

- There is a strong focus on communication and language development. Staff use sign language with young children effectively to enhance their communication and ability to express their own needs. They read to children with excitement in the garden, exposing them to a range of stories and promoting a love for literature. The language-rich environment ensures that all children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress with their communication.
- Leaders understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their children's development. They implement a curriculum based on the children's interests and what they need to learn next effectively. Children enjoy taking part in daily group activities, such as mindfulness sessions, to support their well-being as a result of the pandemic. However, staff do not consistently adapt their interactions to respond to individual children's engagement during activities. Consequently, children who are less confident do not fully benefit from the learning experience provided.
- Staff consistently work in partnership with other professionals, and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are very well supported. Staff undertake relevant training to ensure effective support is provided for children and families, to enable them to make good progress in their learning.
- Children are aware of the boundaries and routines of the nursery and will follow

these well with staff support. However, staff robustly follow the nursery routine, such as tidy-up time. As a result, children are not provided with warning when these changes in routine occur, which takes them away from their learning.

- Children are provided with a wealth of experiences to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Staff regularly plan outings within the local community for the children that build upon what they already know and provides them with new knowledge to contribute positively to society. For example, children are taken on litter-picking walks to help look after their local woodlands, and they purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from the local market.
- Parents speak very highly of this nursery. They report that they are exceptionally happy with the care and education their children receive during their day. Parents explain that staff are amazing and they trust them completely. Parents report that they are kept up to date with their child's learning and that staff provide them with ideas to support learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection and signs to look out for. Staff are confident in their knowledge of the signs that children may display when being radicalised and are aware of the importance of monitoring children's attendance. Staff are highly aware of their responsibilities to support children's well-being and raise any concerns they may have about the conduct of colleagues. A thorough induction and recruitment process ensures all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager, who is passionate about her role, supports all staff to be aware of their own roles and responsibilities and provides them with opportunities to have detailed and regular supervisions to discuss practice and professional development.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the organisation of routine tasks so that children can complete activities to their satisfaction
- strengthen staff's understanding of how to adapt their interactions to respond to individual children's engagement during activities, to ensure all children remain fully engaged and their learning is maximised.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2598023
Local authority	Thurrock
Inspection number	10251477
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 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Cook, Richelle
Registered person unique reference number	2515340
Telephone number	07458303150
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Explorers Aveley registered in 2020 and is one of four settings run by the same registered provider. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, six staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Holly Todd

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 provision.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- 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 told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at nursery.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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