

Inspection of Smartys Toddler Nursery

2 and 4 Taverners Drive, Little Stoke, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8QF

Inspection date: 15 November 2022

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| 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

Children and parents receive a warm welcome when they arrive at this friendly nursery. Children quickly settle into the routine of the day and become engrossed in their play. Babies and toddlers are keen to explore the environment and enjoy making choices about what they would like to do. Children develop good relationships with staff and feel safe and secure in this nurturing nursery. This is because staff take their time getting to know the children and have good attachments with them.

Children enjoy being outside in the fresh air. They are developing their physical skills through their enjoyment of using outdoor equipment. For example, they skilfully move along the balancing beams and manoeuvre bikes around the track. They choose a variety of activities, such as digging and water play, filling and emptying containers with water. Children are keen to look at the woodlouse they find. They have a lovely conversation about the creature and carefully return it to its habitat. This shows children's interest in the world around them. Children are busy, display high levels of curiosity and remain consistently engaged. For instance, once they finish an activity, they eagerly move on to the next one to explore and learn.

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

- The manager has high expectations for the children in her care. Her curriculum covers all areas of learning and is well sequenced. Staff are fully aware of the intent for the curriculum, and this is well implemented. Staff collect information from parents about what their children can do when they first join, to fully understand children's starting points in learning. Staff use their observations effectively to identify children's next steps in learning. When children need extra help, staff arrange effective activities and support to meet their needs.
- Kind, caring and experienced staff get to know children well. They support children's varied needs effectively. For instance, they encourage younger babies to pull themselves up to access resources and older babies to take steps independently. Staff support children's developing self-care skills effectively and encourage good hygiene routines. They teach children about healthy food choices and oral health. Babies and toddlers benefit from going on regular walks around the local area.
- Children make good progress in their communication and language skills. Staff provide a narrative for children as they play, modelling sounds and words, and playing peekaboo with babies. Staff regularly encourage children to sing, use rhymes and look at books. Two-year-olds recall actions and some words to their favourite songs. All children are confident to express their wants and needs. However, occasionally, staff do not find out older children's ideas when

introducing an activity to further extend children's language skills and optimise their learning.

- Staff are good role models and use their knowledge of behaviour management well. They use a gentle approach to help children learn how to behave. They teach children the importance of sharing and turn taking. In addition, staff offer regular praise during activities to boost children's self-esteem.
- Parents say that staff are approachable and friendly. They confirm that their children have developed their skills and knowledge since attending the nursery and state that they are pleased with their children's progress. Parents have the opportunity to share news and information about children's achievements and current interests online and at parent consultations. This helps staff to plan for what children need to learn next, using their interests to engage and motivate them. Parents receive information about current topics and events at the nursery. This helps them join in with opportunities for learning at home.
- The manager and staff team are reflective and they work hard to continually improve the setting. Staff make sure that the environment offers a mixture of support and challenge for all children. Regular supervision, opportunities for training and discussions help staff to feel valued and supported in their work.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand the safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures. They can easily identify when there is a concern about a child's welfare and know what action to take to safeguard them. They know who to contact in the event of receiving an allegation against an adult. Staff are aware of the 'Prevent' duty and why it is in place. They are aware of their duty to prevent children from exposure to situations which may put them at significant risk of harm. Staff carry out risk assessments of the learning environment to remove any potential risks to help keep children safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the planning of some activities, to help children to express their ideas and develop a wider and more varied vocabulary.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 218486 |
| Local authority | Staffordshire |
| Inspection number | 10234341 |
| 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 2 |
| Total number of places | 32 |
| Number of children on roll | 42 |
| Name of registered person | Smarty's Day Nursery (Stone) Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP535129 |
| Telephone number | 01785 817974 |
| Date of previous inspection | 23 November 2016 |

Information about this early years setting

Smartys Toddler Nursery registered in 2010. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds early years professional status and six hold an appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqueline Coomer

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector and the nursery manager completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum is organised.
- A joint observation of a teaching activity was carried out by the inspector and the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to children, staff and parents at appropriate times 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 setting.
- A meeting was held between the inspector, the providers and the nursery manager.

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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