

Inspection of Westhill Nursery

West Hill House, Braunton, Devon EX33 1AR

Inspection date: 16 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children have a brilliant time at this nursery. They have an exceptional learning experience in a joyful and nurturing environment. The team of dedicated staff supports the children to explore, create and learn. At all times, interactions with children are of a very high quality. The impact of teaching is extremely effective. Children really enjoy playing, talking and learning with the staff. They sustain high levels of concentration.

Children have access to lots of exciting activities. They like playing with interesting puzzles and jigsaws to develop their critical thinking. Children enjoy opportunities to engage in role play with their friends. For example, they pretend to own a grocery shop and 'sell' fruit and vegetables to the children and staff who visit the shop. Outdoors, younger children experience playing with bubbly water in a role-play kitchen. Older children enjoy physical play on a climbing frame and slide. They learn how to take risks, overcome challenges and develop physical skills. The children explore outdoor learning in a forest school environment twice a week. The children enjoy these days very much.

Children have extremely positive attitudes towards their learning. They are curious and become deeply engaged in their work and play. Children are very confident in explaining what they know, can remember and can do. They make wonderful friends with the other children in the nursery and are very happy.

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

- All children make excellent progress. They experience teaching and learning that support them to concentrate, reach deep levels of thinking, retain information and form their own ideas. Children have time to think and express their ideas. Group discussions are brilliantly organised, and children really enjoy these moments. Every child who wants to take part has plenty of opportunities to contribute. Staff offer alternative activities for children who do not want to join in. Children learn that their opinions matter.
- There is a strong and highly effective focus on developing children's language and communication. Staff use open-ended questions. They introduce new words to children to extend their vocabulary. There is a very wide choice of books available. Staff read to the children regularly, and they read books in an exciting and interesting way. Children become very involved in the stories. Children love listening to the staff reading books. They also try to read to each other. They develop a love of books and language. Staff support children to enjoy poetry and rhyme and to play word games. For example, children enjoy describing that one member of staff has a blue coat. They explain that she is 'Miss Blue, who went to the zoo'.

- The manager and staff have excellent knowledge and teaching skills. They ensure that every child makes the best possible progress. The manager has created an ambitious curriculum. It is highly challenging and well planned for every child. Staff know the children very well, including what they can do and what they need to learn next. Every child knows they are unique and feels treasured.
- The setting supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) brilliantly. Links with local agencies that support children with SEND are strong. Children with SEND receive a high-quality level of care and education. They make excellent progress. Families of children with SEND are very well supported.
- Children make lovely friendships. They enjoy playing with all the other children in the nursery. They cooperate well, are kind and have respect for others as they play. Children work together in groups exceptionally well. They celebrate each other's achievements, take turns and share. Several children really enjoyed playing together. They made 'spiders' out of clay and wooden sticks. They discussed their designs with each other and shared the equipment wonderfully.
- The manager and staff have excellent relationships with parents and carers. Parents report that they are very happy with the nursery and highly recommend it. Staff make sure parents receive daily updates on their children's progress and development. They send home weekly learning packs which are individual to each child. Staff give termly progress meetings. Managers ensure they gather information from parents about what children know and can do and what they like and dislike on a regular basis. Managers get feedback from parents on an annual basis. They reflect on this feedback to bring about improvements to the nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The nursery manager and staff are secure in their knowledge and understanding of the signs that may suggest a child is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or harm. They are confident in the procedures to follow and who to contact to ensure they keep children safe. The manager follows a rigorous and effective recruitment procedure. She conducts regular appraisals and suitability checks. Staff inductions are thorough. The manager has created suitable safeguarding arrangements to keep children safe. They make appropriate referrals to other agencies when necessary.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106394
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10234051
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	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Anne Garland and Ruth Garland Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP908951
Telephone number	01271 812938
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2017

Information about this early years setting

Westhill Nursery was established in 1960. It is privately owned and has been run by the same family since opening. The nursery operates in the grounds of the provider's home in Braunton, North Devon. The nursery provides funded early years education for children aged two, three and four years. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, all year round, with a breakfast and after-school club. The provider, who is also the manager, holds early years professional status. She employs five additional staff to work with children, four of whom hold level 3 early years qualifications, and one is currently working towards an early years qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Victoria Jones

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 inspector spoke with the staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of the manager and her staff.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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