

Inspection of The Wishing Tree Children's Nursery

14 Carden Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 8NA

Inspection date:

29 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are helped to feel safe and secure. Staff are kind and calm with children and provide reassurance, as and when needed. This helps children to settle well and to enjoy their time at this homely and welcoming nursery. For instance, staff tune into babies' needs. They rock them in their arms and talk to them soothingly. As a result, babies develop good bonds with the attentive staff. They have fun discovering how to operate resources, such as successfully pressing buttons to pop open lids on play kettles and pots.

Younger toddlers' emerging language skills are well supported. For example, they enjoy the repetition of favourite stories and copy what staff say. They successfully use good-quality resources related to the story and learn the meaning of new words, such as over and under. Older toddlers enjoy imaginative play; they use phone handsets to pretend to talk to family members.

All children demonstrate that they are developing good physical skills. They have fun exploring outdoors. Pre-school children use their imaginations well. For instance, following on from a discussion about Noah's Ark, they decide to make an obstacle course, using bricks to climb to their ark. They demonstrate good balancing skills and work together as a team.

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

- Leaders work hard to ensure that they maintain good standards. They continually reflect on what is working well and what they need to do to improve. They support the staff team to develop their knowledge and skills in understanding about how children learn. For instance, there is a focus on how to support children's natural curiosity during their play. This contributes to the planning of activities and the building of children's knowledge.
- The passionate staff follow children's interests to build on what they already know and can do. For instance, children's comments about weather changes lead to them learning about animals that live in colder climates. Staff gently introduce the topic of climate change, which extends children's language and their understanding of the wider world.
- Staff help children develop a love of reading. For instance, children have cosy places to relax in and enjoy listening to the stories being read. They choose books to take home and share with their families. This supports children's early literacy skills.
- Children go on regular outings in the local community. Staff link these outings to the curriculum. For example, older children visit residential care homes and enjoy visits to a local shop. Children learn about road safety on their trips. Younger children visit the nearby park and enjoy watching vehicles on the way.

These outings help children to gain an understanding of people and their community.

- Staff plan activities to widen children's experiences. For instance, most children have fun joining in with the organised ball games and a well-led music and singing session. However, these operate at the same time, which means that some children find it too noisy and quickly lose interest. Therefore, some activities do not entirely promote children's development and engagement at the highest level.
- Children are helped to respect each other and to behave well. Any unwanted behaviour is managed calmly and effectively by the attentive staff. Staff act as positive role models for children. They are consistent in their approach and work closely with parents to help resolve any issues.
- Overall, staff support children's emerging communication skills well. Staff join in with their play and introduce new words to younger children. Older children are encouraged to discuss their ideas and share their thoughts. Staff ask questions to extend their learning. However, on occasion, some staff do not give children enough time to think and respond in order to share their knowledge and understanding.
- Parents speak highly about the nursery. They say that their children have 'blossomed' since attending the nursery and that their children are always excited to attend. Parents value the continual communication they receive. They feel very welcome in the nursery and enjoy the parent activities, such as fundraising events.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities to ensure children are safe. They know the signs and symptoms that may be a concern and the procedures to follow. Staff ensure that any concerns are raised with the designated safeguarding lead and, if needed, appropriate referrals are made to outside agencies. They are aware of their duty to follow up on concerns as needed. Staff's skills and knowledge regarding safeguarding are kept up to date through regular discussions and training. Leaders follow secure recruitment and induction procedures to help ensure that staff are suitable for their roles.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen staff's skills in supporting children to have more time to think and respond to questions and demonstrate what they know and understand
- review the planning of activities to match the stage of development of all children consistently so that they are engaged.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY283126
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10228354
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	86
Number of children on roll	137
Name of registered person	Lewis Wood and Jayne Wood Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP524143
Telephone number	01273 551515
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2016

Information about this early years setting

The Wishing Tree Children's Nursery registered in 2004. It is situated in Brighton, East Sussex. The nursery operates throughout the year, except for bank holidays, between the hours of 8am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday. There are 38 staff employed and, of these, 28 hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 setting.
- The inspector and one of the managers had a learning walk together. The inspector observed staff practice and considered the impact on children's play experiences.
- Discussions were held with the leadership team about the management of the nursery, and joint observations of practice took place.
- Parents spoke to the inspector and shared their views on the care and education provided. The inspector took these into account.
- The inspector spoke to children, engaged in their play and observed the interactions of staff with them.

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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