

Inspection of Warren Childcare Centre

Southfields Community Centre, Southfields Road, Kempston, Bedford, Bedfordshire
MK42 7NR

Inspection date: 6 December 2022

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| 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 thoroughly enjoy their time in this welcoming setting. They follow staff's good example and are excited and inquisitive. For instance, they look at the 'Family Book' and eagerly share their family traditions. The photographs inspire them to recreate an activity and they work intently to build towers and patterns with bricks. Children are safe and secure, confidently participating and stating their views. For example, they decide together which resources they would like out. Children play cooperatively. They work together to safely move a large plank of wood, carefully balancing this on bricks to make a slide. Children enjoy setting themselves challenges. For instance, they lay bricks in lines and carefully balance as they take turns to walk along these.

Children are independent and develop practical skills that support them when they start school. For example, they carefully put finished work in their folders to take home. Children show a mature kindness and respect for one another. They learn about people in their community and about differences. For instance, they visit a residential home and understand that some people communicate by using sign language. Staff are sensitive to the potential effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns. They offer additional support to help children develop social skills.

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

- The temporary manager has a good understanding of her role. She works closely with staff, offering daily support and helping them to access training to further develop their practice.
- Staff have a good understanding of what children have been learning and know what they need to learn next. They offer children play opportunities that accurately reflect their interests and help them to take the next step in their learning. Good monitoring procedures ensure staff quickly highlight any weaker areas in children's learning. This helps ensure that all children make good progress.
- Staff know children well. They use this knowledge to support children to participate in activities and to interact with their peers. This sensitive support particularly aids children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. Furthermore, this good knowledge of each child enables the manager to use additional funding effectively to support children's learning.
- Staff take great care in setting out the rooms. Children access interesting resources that reflect their interests and help promote their learning. For example, they choose dinosaur masks, eagerly naming the different types of dinosaurs. Staff build on this and children giggle as they answer their names with a roar at registration time.

- Children show an enjoyment of books. They listen intently as staff read, eagerly predicting what is going to happen. They enjoy sitting in the cosy reading area to look at books and share these with friends.
- Children show an interest in numbers and counting, and staff extend this. For example, children count wooden spoons. Staff remove some and children correctly predict the number of spoons left. Children practise this later when they count items in the play kitchen.
- Staff include children in discussions, frequently introducing new vocabulary. They check that children understand any new words and help them use these as they play. Staff help children to use simple sign language to aid early communication.
- Parents praise staff and the setting, stating that the pre-school 'feels like a family'. They report that staff communicate well with them so that they understand what their children have been doing and can build on this.
- Children enjoy playing in the outdoor area. However, staff do not always offer as many outdoor opportunities as possible, to fully build on the development of children who prefer to be outside.
- Children enjoy their interactions with staff, who generally ask open questions and encourage children to think further. However, on occasion, staff do not give children time to think and they answer simple questions for them. This does not fully support children in developing their communication skills.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding. They know how to identify signs that may indicate concerns in a child's life, and they report these without delay to the correct professional. The temporary manager ensures that staff complete regular training to help keep their knowledge of safeguarding up to date. Staff have a good awareness of how safeguarding issues, such as radicalisation, can affect children and their families. They appreciate the possible risks associated with use of the internet and take effective steps to protect children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- extend the use of outdoor areas to offer further play and learning opportunities for children who prefer to be outside
- support staff further in giving children time to think and answer questions.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 2591542 |
| Local authority | Bedford |
| Inspection number | 10251253 |
| 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 | 2 to 4 |
| Total number of places | 32 |
| Number of children on roll | 29 |
| Name of registered person | Warren Child Care Centre Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | 2591540 |
| Telephone number | 01234 841234 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |

Information about this early years setting

Warren Childcare Centre has been open for 47 years and re-registered in 2020. The pre-school employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am to midday and from midday to 3pm, with the option of a lunch club. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It provides out-of-school care when there is the demand.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Kelly Eyre

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 joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- Meetings were held between the inspector and the manager. The inspector looked at relevant documentation and saw evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, children and parents at appropriate times 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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