

Inspection of Stars Day Nurseries Ltd t/a Stars Pre-School Dogsthorpe

Little Steps Day Nursery, 100b Central Avenue, PETERBOROUGH PE1 4LJ

Inspection date: 18 January 2023

| Overall effectiveness | Outstanding |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
|------------------------------|--------------------|

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children attend this setting with great joy and with an exceptionally keen interest in learning. Staff are warm and responsive towards the children's needs and help them to feel safe and secure in their environment. Children demonstrate extremely high levels of self-esteem as they show delight in their achievements. For example, children eagerly show how they can pour their own drinks at snack time, as staff celebrate their success and offer meaningful praise. Children have exceptionally good behaviour and understand why behaviour rules are in place. They are considerate of others and have excellent manners. Children can be heard saying, 'excuse me please' and 'thank you' as they navigate around others throughout play.

Children are consistently challenged and supported by highly skilled, nurturing and attentive staff. They spend large amounts of time deeply immersed in the extensive array of learning opportunities that are on offer. For example, children concentrate as they use pincers to collect coloured animals from the water tray and place them in the correct coloured cups. This means that all children, including those with special education needs and/or disabilities, make rapid progress from their starting points and are ready for the next stage of their learning.

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

- The quality of teaching is outstanding. The setting builds a secure foundation, where children can flourish in all areas of their development. Staff have a firm understanding of the curriculum intent and the ways in which they are supporting the children in their care. They effectively observe children and track their progress to ensure they are meeting their developmental milestones and quickly identify when children need additional support. As a result, children make excellent progress in their development.
- Staff skilfully support children's mathematical development at every opportunity. For instance, children eagerly collect balls as staff encourage them to count how many they have and identify if they are 'big' or 'small'.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff gain a wealth of information about what their children can and cannot do before they start. Parents discuss how happy and settled their children are and that they are making great progress in their learning and development. They comment that staff are approachable and go above and beyond what is expected of them to help support children and parents.
- Children's communication skills are expertly supported in this language-rich environment. Staff speak slowly and clearly, repeating words and modelling sentences. This especially supports children who have English as an additional language. Children show exceptional recall and fluency as they repeat phrases from familiar stories and discuss what will happen next. Staff understand the

importance of enhancing children's early literacy skills by, for example, arrange for a local librarian to visit the setting to read stories to develop children's love of reading.

- Staff help children to gain an excellent understanding of the benefits of healthy eating. They work closely with parents to encourage them to provide healthy and nutritious packed lunches. The setting has ample opportunities for children to play outside and engage in physical activities. Children confidently make obstacle courses in the garden as they learn how to balance and climb independently. Staff teach children how to maintain good oral hygiene through well-thought-out activities. For instance, children learn how to brush their teeth correctly and use pretend teeth and toothbrushes to brush the 'germs' away.
- The management team are dedicated and passionate leaders and ensure that the setting is an integral part of the local community. They are involved in regular charity events and work with the local children's centre to support families and the wider community. This enhances children's understanding of other people and their needs and beliefs.
- Staff well-being is a key focus for the management team. They encourage staff to develop their knowledge and skills and have regular supervision to support their welfare. Staff describe the management team as 'extremely supportive and approachable' and comment that they 'absolutely love their job'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff are highly trained and have an impressive understanding of their role in protecting children from harm. Staff receive high-quality training to ensure they can recognise and respond to signs of abuse. They know to refer any concerns they may have about a child to the appropriate safeguarding team without hesitation. Risk assessments are embedded into practice, which ensures children can play and explore in a safe environment. The management team have robust recruitment procedures and a firm focus on ensuring the suitability of all staff who work directly with children. In addition, effective supervision ensures staff's ongoing suitability is monitored regularly.

Setting details

| | |
|--|---|
| Unique reference number | EY455313 |
| Local authority | Peterborough |
| Inspection number | 10236003 |
| Type of provision | Childcare on non-domestic premises |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| Day care type | Sessional day care |
| Age range of children at time of inspection | 2 to 4 |
| Total number of places | 42 |
| Number of children on roll | 65 |
| Name of registered person | Stars Day Nurseries Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP905087 |
| Telephone number | 01733-554416 |
| Date of previous inspection | 14 March 2017 |

Information about this early years setting

Stars Day Nurseries Ltd t/a Stars Pre-School Dogsthorpe registered in 2012. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, term time only, from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Laura Redmond

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection that the setting has received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the pre-school and has taken this into account in their evaluation.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation during a group activity.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a sample of relevant documentation, including staff DBS checks, paediatric first-aid and safeguarding training.
- The inspector spoke to several 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023