

Inspection of Blackbirds Fun for Kids

118 Felpham Way, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8QL

Inspection date: 10 February 2023

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 very clearly demonstrate that they feel safe and secure with staff. Children benefit from the opportunity to develop strong bonds with familiar staff. They are highly motivated and engaged in their play. For example, children delight in posting cars down ramps, investigating speed and predicting where cars will travel to. Laughter rings out as they play and learn together. Children show positive attitudes to their play and the staff, and their emotional well-being is supported securely.

Children show they are kind and caring to each other. For instance, older children demonstrate and play alongside younger children as they explore a fishing game. Children develop strong friendships and play cooperatively.

Children know the expectations staff have for them. They understand the boundaries in the preschool, and behave well. Staff are positive role models for children, teaching them to share and take turns. Children learn to use good manners and to listen to what is said to them. They respond swiftly to instructions and requests. Children are learning a range of skills to support them to move on to the next stage in their education.

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

- Staff place a strong focus on supporting children to be effective communicators. They teach children new words as they play, share stories and sing songs. For instance, when making dough with children, staff introduce words such as 'gooey,' 'drippy' and 'slurpy.' Staff carefully explain to children what the new words mean. This helps children to hear and learn a good range of words in a meaningful way.
- Staff know the children they care for well. They plan activities that support and build on what children already know and can do. For example, staff help children learn to balance, climb and scramble around an obstacle course. Children learn to sequence activities they complete, building on their physical and mathematical skills.
- Children have the opportunity to take part in outings to support their knowledge of the world. They visit local parks and the community. Children learn about different places and different people. This helps them to develop an understanding of diversity in the wider world in which they are growing up.
- Staff build positive partnerships with parents and carers. For instance, they have regular meetings to share information about children's learning and development. Staff provide parents and carers with support and advice. This helps ensure to high level of consistency for children's care and learning.
- Staff encourage children to be independent. Children know where to find tissues, for example, and where to store their belongings. Staff promote children's good

health, such as by teaching them about hand washing before they eat. Staff work closely with parents to help them provide nutritious meals for their children. This supports children's good physical health.

- The preschool curriculum is planned to support children's learning in all areas. However, younger children, at times, struggle to maintain focus and attention. For example, they do not benefit from story times that are finely tuned to their levels of understanding. Younger children's needs are occasionally missed in the large group time activities.
- At times, staff step in to suggest solutions to children's problems. For instance, when children want a turn with the fishing game and when dough is too wet. This limits the opportunities children have to problem solve and think of their own ideas.
- Staff report high levels of well-being and support from the provider. They are reflective and work well as a team to identify where they could improve children's experiences in the preschool. Staff are positive about the opportunities they have for ongoing professional development.
- Parents and carers report their children are 'thriving' at the preschool. Parents say how much their children's confidence has grown since they started at the setting. They comment on the effective communication from staff about their children's time in the preschool.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The provider follows a robust staff recruitment process to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Regular safeguarding training and ongoing discussions keeps safeguarding as a high focus for all staff. They understand their role to keep children safe at all times. Staff know about the indicators of possible abuse. They are clear about what procedures to follow if they have any concerns about children's welfare. Staff know the actions to take if they have concerns about a colleague.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- plan and differentiate the curriculum more sharply so that the environment and activities take greater account of, and provide support for, the individual learning needs and interests of the younger children
- allow children to have sufficient time to think and explore problems before offering solutions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113378
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10264431
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	40
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Crouch, Fay Kathleen
Registered person unique reference number	RP515252
Telephone number	07961 824049 or 07572006387
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

Blackbirds Fun for Kids registered in 1997. It is situated in the Methodist church hall in Felpham, West Sussex. The preschool is open Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 3pm, during term time only. The preschool receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff, all of who hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Emma Dean

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 this into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The provider joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they intend for the children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided indoors and outside and assessed the impact this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector talked to staff and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- A meeting was held between the inspector and provider. The inspector looked at relevant documentation and saw evidence of suitability of staff.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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