

Inspection of Waterside Early Care and Education Centre

600 Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1PT

Inspection date: 13 February 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
------------------------------	-------------

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 who attend this nursery are happy. They are warmly welcomed by staff as they arrive. They settle quickly because staff offer reassuring words and are attentive to their individual needs. Children build close relationships with staff, who spend time getting to know them and their families. Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure in their care. They explore the environments enthusiastically and access the available resources. Children behave well. They follow instructions as, for instance, they wash their hands or line up to move rooms. Children learn to be kind and considerate to others. They receive plenty of praise for their efforts. This helps to build their self-esteem.

Staff work hard to ensure that what they plan for children enables them to meet the next steps in their learning. As a result, all children, including those who are funded and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make good progress. Younger children develop their physical skills as they climb safely on the small climbing equipment. They delight in coming down the slide with support from staff. Toddlers are enthusiastic bakers. They thoroughly enjoy exploring the different cooking activities, and they learn and refine the necessary skills required. Older children delight in leading their own play. They are keen to play outside and enjoy their imaginative play as they use various resources, pretending they are going on a car journey to 'Spain'.

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

- Leaders are committed to the development of their staff team and provide good-quality support and training. Staff feel well supported by the management team. They receive ongoing supervision, feedback and guidance and are helped to continually develop their practice and skills. The manager regularly reviews and reflects on the nursery provision. She implements action plans to drive continual improvement. For example, after staff reviewed the toddler environment, they put many natural resources into the room to widen children's curiosity and investigation skills.
- Staff plan a broad curriculum that follows children's interests and builds on what they already know and what they need to learn next. Overall, staff interact well with all children and offer a narrative as they play. As a result, older children are confident communicators. However, at times, the youngest children do not consistently hear staff talking and modelling simple words, to help support their emerging language skills even further.
- Staff help children in their future skills. For example, children develop well in mathematics. This is because staff skilfully weave mathematical concepts through children's play. Younger children measure cups as they make their own play dough and stretch the dough into different shapes. Older children build

their knowledge of more complex concepts, such as 'more', 'less' and 'full'. They predict how many cups of water it will take to fill a container.

- Children demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning experiences. They thoroughly enjoy the time they spend outdoors. However, staff do not consistently make the best use of the outdoor space to support the learning and development of those children who prefer to learn outdoors.
- Staff develop children's independence skills well. They teach children simple skills, such as feeding themselves from an early age, putting on their own coats, serving their meals and pouring drinks for themselves. As a result, children show good levels of independence and confidence.
- Children with SEND are supported well. An experienced manager works alongside staff and other professionals to provide children with the additional help and support they need. Staff are proactive in accessing early help when required. They swiftly target and adapt activities to address any gaps in children's learning.
- Partnerships with parents and other agencies are strong. Parents are particularly fond of the communication application. This supports children's learning at home and involves parents in the life of the setting. Parents know who their child's key person is and say that their children are happy and enjoy attending the nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a secure knowledge of how to safeguard children. The staff team attends appropriate child protection and safeguarding training. Leaders regularly discuss all safeguarding issues and check staff's understanding, including their knowledge of extremism and radicalisation. Staff confidently explain the signs and symptoms of abuse and understand the process if a concern arises. The nursery is safe and secure. Staff identify and minimise successfully potential risks, both indoors and outdoors. Most staff hold a valid paediatric first-aid qualification, enabling them to act swiftly in the event of an emergency.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance interactions during activities, providing babies with consistently rich language and challenges in their individual learning
- continue to plan an effective curriculum, with particular reference to the garden, taking account of children who prefer to learn outdoors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY368368
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10278555
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	120
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901358
Telephone number	0118 907 7977
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2019

Information about this early years setting

Waterside Early Care and Education Centre registered in 2008. It is situated in Thames Valley Business Park, on the outskirts of Reading, Berkshire. The nursery is open five days a week, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. The provider employs 20 staff to work with the children. Of these, 14 staff hold qualifications at level 2 or above, including seven with level 3 qualifications and three staff with qualifications at level 5 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

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 observed activities in the three main base rooms and garden. She talked to staff about the progress individual children are making and what they want the children to learn.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and the manager. The inspector observed interactions between staff and the children and the impact these have on children's learning. The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including evidence of paediatric first-aid training. The inspector had a discussion with leaders about the evaluation of the setting and plans for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children 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