

Inspection of Halesworth Day Nursery

Halesworth Day Nursery, School Lane, HALESWORTH, Suffolk IP19 8BW

Inspection date: 17 March 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

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children arrive at the nursery full of enthusiasm and anticipation for the day ahead. Young children beam with delight as they are greeted by their favourite staff member, while older children are full of chatter and cannot wait to join their friends in play. The exceptional staff team recognise these moments are so important and take the time that is needed to welcome children in. Consequently, children start their day full of confidence and knowledge that they are truly cherished.

Staff are passionate about their work and make the children their priority. As a result, children are highly motivated learners and spend their day engrossed in activities with staff or quietly undertaken by themselves. Younger children delight in the time spent outside. They copy staff as they learn to make sandcastles and use different tools as they play. Children seek out puddles to splash in, and show confidence as they move around safely in wet weather. Older children have a very good understanding of what is expected of them. They frequently remind their friends about the golden rules and find solutions to their occasional disagreements. Children are not afraid of challenges and take great pride in their achievements, such as putting on their shoes and coats.

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

- The management team demonstrate an outstanding level of dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge. They are inspirational for staff who reflect these same attributes along with a pure enjoyment of their roles. The ambitious curriculum is well considered and is highly effective for all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Excellent partnerships exist with other professionals, schools and those in the community. This contributes well to children having the best start possible in their early years.
- Under the guidance of the highly skilled SEND coordinator, all staff support the needs of children with SEND exceptionally well. They show truly inclusive practice and this, together with robust partnership working, means children soon progress well from their starting points. Parents are quick to attribute this swift progress to the efforts and care shown by staff from the moment children start attending the nursery.
- Teaching is excellent throughout the staff team. Staff know children incredibly well and provide a wealth of activities that inspire children to explore, investigate and practise new or familiar skills. Good use is made of members of the community who visit to share skills, which stimulates new interests for the children. For example, children have a newly found fascination for boats after a visit from a sailor. Staff use every opportunity to teach children about the world around them and communities beyond their own.

- Staff place a high priority on children's language development. They carefully plan how they will thread certain words throughout discussions as children play. Interactions between staff and children are delightful. Over time, children learn to express themselves fluently and confidently use a wide vocabulary when speaking with staff and friends.
- Children demonstrate excellent concentration as they listen carefully at story time. Their love of reading is fostered well at these times. Children readily choose to look at books and even young children can be seen snuggling up with their favourite tales for extended periods of time.
- Self-evaluation is outstanding. Managers consider information from external sources, together with observations from their own provision, to make improvements. The impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed that everybody's well-being remains a priority, along with addressing any gaps in children's development. Staff's professional development is encouraged, and this has an excellent impact on their skill and knowledge.
- Parents offer the highest of praise for the staff team. They say that staff have time to answer their queries and offer support when family life is challenging. Others acknowledge that 'staff are all kind, attentive and have wonderful close bonds with the children.' Parents are well informed and given lots of ideas to support children's learning at home. They say their children's progress is 'amazing' and that the nursery offers children the 'best possible start to their educational journey'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are extremely well trained in safeguarding matters and know how to keep children safe from harm. They know how to report their concerns and regularly discuss matters during staff meetings and supervisions. Recruitment procedures are robust and include a stringent induction programme to ensure only the best staff join the team. Staff confidently share their knowledge with parents on aspects, such as 'safer sleep' practices, to help keep children as protected as possible at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411434
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10280415
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	50
Number of children on roll	59
Name of registered person	Halesworth Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903274
Telephone number	01986 874569
Date of previous inspection	18 August 2017

Information about this early years setting

Halesworth Day Nursery registered in 2010. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 11 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. One member of staff holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with managers and has taken that into account in their evaluation.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager and discussed how the curriculum is delivered.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and manager completed a joint evaluation of an activity.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with parents and read emails sent for the purpose of the inspection. The inspector 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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