

Inspection of Lingfield Nursery School

Bank Farm, Ray Lane, Blindley Heath, Lingfield RH7 6LJ

Inspection date: 28 March 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	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children happily arrive and are warmly greeted by the staff. Babies receive sensitive care and support from familiar adults who know them well. Staff help children to feel safe and secure. Children become confident to communicate. They develop their vocabulary through naturally occurring events and with planned activities. For example, children learn about sea life and pollution. They talk about rubbish in the sea and link the new vocabulary to meaningful conversations with staff. Younger children use Makaton sign language and learn new signs, such as 'starfish' and 'shark'. This extends children's communication and knowledge of the world around them.

Children have ample opportunities to access the outdoors. They experience a range of activities that support their physical development. For example, they run, jump and ride tricycles in the large outside spaces. Children plant and grow their own flowers and vegetables in the allotment area. Younger children use large crayons to make marks.

Children are sociable and behave well. Staff have high expectations of behaviour and value children's choices as they play. This helps to promote children's self-esteem and well-being. All children demonstrate a positive attitude to their learning, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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

- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, managers have focused on recruiting staff to their team in order to address levels of staff turnover. They have also developed a curriculum that focuses heavily on outdoor learning and children's personal development. However, the time available for managers to support staff, including those who are less experienced, has been limited. This means that the new focus for the curriculum is not yet fully implemented in practice.
- Staff ensure that the learning environment ignites children's interest. They are skilful at planning activities and extending their learning and development. For example, children wash socks and wring the water out. They carefully peg them on a washing line. This supports children's hand muscles in preparation for writing. Furthermore, staff challenge children learning as they count and begin to pair socks. Children learn early maths concepts very well.
- Staff are good role models and praise children for their good choices. Staff teach children about 'kind hands', and talk about different emotions when the children arrive at nursery. This helps children to understand the rules of the setting and how to be kind to others.
- Children develop their independence skills. For example, they feed themselves at mealtimes and put their waterproofs and boots on to go outside. Older children

know to wash their hands before mealtimes and are confident using the toilets. Children are confident in managing their own self-care. This helps them get ready for school.

- The manager has a robust recruitment system in place. She ensures that all staff and students who work with children are suitable. Staff receive ongoing monitoring and supervision sessions to support their professional development. For instance, staff report that they have access to an online learning platform. This supports them to further deepen their knowledge of child development.
- Parents are very complimentary about the care and education that staff provide for their children. They say that their children have 'blossomed' and the staff are 'kind and always approachable'. Parents are actively involved in planning their children's food menus with the chef. This shared approach supports children's good health.
- The manager and staff identify any children that will benefit from additional support. They use advice and support from professionals to plan specific support for children. For example, staff use communication aids with children so that they can make choices. This supports their self-esteem and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a thorough understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. They ensure that staff undertake regular training to keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date. Staff are clear about possible risks to children and can identify signs of abuse. They know how to swiftly report any concerns about children's welfare or concerns regarding adults. There are robust systems in place to check the suitability of staffing with the management team and looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- extend support and coaching for all staff, particularly those who are less experienced, to help them understand how to deliver the curriculum focus more effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY386648
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10276655
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	100
Number of children on roll	152
Name of registered person	Dale (Surrey) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP528670
Telephone number	01342 836540
Date of previous inspection	26 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

Lingfield Nursery School is privately owned and registered in 2003. It is located in Lingfield, Surrey. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 44 members of staff, 19 of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Kelly Lane

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 setting.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- 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.

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