

Inspection of Winston's Place at Wirral Christian Centre

Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 2UE

Inspection date: 2 May 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 love their nursery. They arrive eager to play and learn in the well-equipped classrooms and garden area. Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), develop close, trusting relationships with the nurturing staff. They build long-lasting friendships with other children. Children feel at ease because staff support them if they feel anxious when starting at the nursery. Children are well cared for by their key person. They demonstrate that they feel safe, such as when they slip their hands into the palm of staff to help them feel more secure.

Children learn how to be kind, considerate and well mannered because of staff's skilful role modelling. They behave extremely well. Staff imaginatively help children to easily remember the rules of how they should behave. For instance, they teach children to pretend that they are putting on kind hands and walking feet. Children learn also to use kind words.

Babies blossom in their learning of new words because of the well-thought-out learning activities that staff provide. For example, when blowing bubbles, staff playfully introduce valuable vocabulary to babies, such as 'bubbles', 'big' and 'small', for them to practise saying. Older children learn the words to many favourite songs and sing them with gusto and enjoyment.

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

- Mostly, managers have successfully designed and implemented an ambitious curriculum. They ensure that the learning activities they provide meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND. Children are engaged and interested by the fascinating learning activities provided by skilful staff. On occasion, some staff focus too much on their choice of activity rather than what information they will teach the children and why. This means that, on occasion, some children are not provided with enough opportunities to gain important knowledge needed for their future learning.
- In the main, staff use their knowledge of child development and the different areas of learning to deliver the curriculum well. For example, staff teach toddlers how to use their big muscles to develop their core strength. They help older children to exercise their hands and fingers ready for practising using writing tools. However, some staff's knowledge of how to implement the curriculum for mathematics is less well developed. This affects how well some children develop their knowledge of number.
- All children benefit from the nursery's thoughtful approach to developing their language skills. Staff talk often with the children. They welcome children's early attempts at talk and babble. Children love to sing nursery rhymes using the

musical instruments that staff provide. Staff introduce children to new and interesting words. Children become confident, able talkers.

- Books are everywhere because staff thoughtfully set out a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books for children to use. Children love stories. They listen attentively when staff expertly share books with them. Staff skilfully develop back-and-forth conversations with children about books and other topics.
- Staff develop children's personal skills very well, such as their self-control. For example, they notice when it is hard for children to wait for their turn of a tricycle. Staff help children to understand their emotions and skilfully explain to them how to wait. Children learn the importance of patience and resilience.
- Staff support children with SEND very well. The managers ensure that staff are trained to use signing and pictures to support children's language skills. As a result, children who are not yet using words learn to communicate their needs and wants. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) works adeptly with parents and other agencies to ensure that children receive the support they need.
- Staff know the children in their care well. This helps them to identify when children need extra help in their learning. Staff successfully use assessment strategies to spot any gaps in knowledge that children may have. They adapt how they deliver the curriculum to help children to make progress in their learning.
- Parents value the regular updates they receive about their child's progress. Staff provide information that helps parents to support their children's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers make sure that staff know and understand their safeguarding responsibilities. They provide staff with regular, up-to-date training in child protection. This helps staff to spot the possible signs of neglect or abuse. Staff fully understand the nursery's safeguarding policies, for example about whistle-blowing. Staff are clear that they must report any concerns about their colleagues' conduct. Managers are not complacent; they diligently follow up with parents if children are absent from nursery. Staff successfully teach children to act safely, such as to check that they do not bump into other children when coming down the slide.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve staff focus on what information to teach children and why
- improve staff knowledge of the mathematics curriculum to strengthen children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	306523
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	10286579
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 5
Total number of places	120
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Wirral Christian Centre Trust Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525230
Telephone number	0151 653 8307 x 120
Date of previous inspection	16 December 2019

Information about this early years setting

Winston's Place at Wirral Christian Centre registered in 1983 and is located in Birkenhead. The nursery employs 26 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3, 6 or 7. This includes one staff member with a masters degree and one who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Andrea Vaughan
Chris Scully

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspectors on a learning walk and talked about the curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspectors spoke with children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspectors talked with staff during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The SENCo spoke with an inspector about how they and staff support children with SEND.
- The inspectors observed children's learning of the curriculum, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations of group activities with a manager.
- The inspectors looked at a range of documentation provided by managers and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

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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