

Inspection of The Willows Day Nursery

The Willows Day Nursery, 380 Redditch Road, Kings Norton, BIRMINGHAM B38 8PS

Inspection date: 26 May 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children happily enter this inviting nursery and quickly settle into the routines of the day. They enjoy daily access to the large garden. Children climb on board the pirate ship and giggle with friends as they pretend to set sail. Children patiently wait their turn to use the slide. They balance on logs and delight in taking risks as they jump off. This helps to build children's confidence, strengthen their large muscles and get their heart rates up.

There are exciting opportunities for mark making. Children squeeze water-spray bottles and watch intently as they make marks on the fence. They use large chalks on the floor to practise writing the letters in their name. This helps children to build the small hand muscles needed for their future writing.

Staff have high expectations for all children. Staff skilfully manage challenging behaviour and are calm and kind in their demeanour. They fully explain to children the impact their behaviour has on others. This gives children a good understanding of how to behave, show respect and follow rules. This prepares them well for their next stage in learning, including the move on to school.

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

- Leaders have made significant improvements to the nursery since their last inspection. Areas are clean, hygienic and free from hazards. Staff regularly assess the risks of the learning environment and swiftly clean up any water spillages. Staff effectively deploy themselves to meet the needs of the children. This helps to keep children safe and reduce the risk of accidents.
- Leaders have designed a new, ambitious curriculum that builds on what children know and can do. They make good use of popular stories to ignite children's interests in learning. Children make good progress in their development from their starting points. Staff understand what they want children to learn. However, sometimes, the quality of teaching does not extend children's learning to the highest level. For example, staff repeat questions too quickly, or ask simple closed questions. This means that children do not always have the time to think deeply or use their own ideas to respond.
- Children are learning important life skills, like sharing and taking turns. They sit nicely at the play dough table and discuss their creations with each other. They share the cutting tools and take turns to talk. Children behave well and show respect towards their friends and adults. Staff are good role models and regularly promote manners. This gives children a good example to follow.
- Staff are attentive to children's individual learning needs. For example, young babies show an interest in pushing furniture to practise walking. Staff respond quickly, finding resources to support children's physical development. This sharp

attention to children's needs means gaps in their learning are closed swiftly.

- Parents speak highly of the nursery. They comment there have been noticeable improvements in the reporting of accidents, particularly head injuries, since the last inspection. This helps parents to feel reassured. They also say that leaders respond quickly to feedback and are open to making changes. This strengthens the relationship between home and nursery.
- Children show a love of books. Even the youngest children independently reach for books and carefully turn the pages. Staff use the story of the week to build activity ideas that interest children. This helps to deepen children's understanding of the story, learn new words and recall the plot.
- Staff regularly share progress information with parents through parents' evenings and an online app. They hold workshops for parents to attend within the nursery. Parents recently joined children and staff for a planting activity in the garden. This helps to give parents ideas to continue learning at home. It also gives parents an opportunity to get to know staff and build relationships.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is good. The experienced special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) works closely with other professionals. This means children with SEND get the early and ongoing support they might need. The SENCo supports staff to formulate specific SEND targets and regularly assesses the children's progress. This helps children to make good progress in their learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff fully understand their role and responsibility to safeguard children. Staff know the signs to look for if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Leaders and staff know the procedure to follow if they are worried about a child. They know who to contact if an allegation is made against a member of staff. Staff complete regular risk assessments of the learning environment. They count children in and out of rooms and effectively deploy themselves to keep children safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on the already good teaching practice, and support staff to fully challenge children to the highest level to help them make the very best progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY270031
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10278334
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 5
Total number of places	88
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	Virdee Daycare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP907676
Telephone number	0121 458 2828
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2023

Information about this early years setting

The Willows Day Nursery registered in 2001 and is located in Kings Norton, Birmingham. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am to 6pm. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, seven hold a qualification at level 3, three hold a qualification at level 2 and one is unqualified.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Katie Rudge

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager and area manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- 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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