

Inspection of Little Teddies Nursery

12 Bowlers Croft, Basildon, Essex SS14 3EG

Inspection date: 12 June 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	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy their nursery experience. Children are greeted by kind and caring staff, who help them to place their belongings on their labelled pegs and join their friends. Staff present the resources in an interesting and exciting way. This helps children to be motivated to play and learn. Children understand the nursery rules and listen carefully when staff give them instructions. They know the routines well and are familiar with what will happen next. For example, older children taking part in a physical activity know to stand in the cleared area, where they have safe space to move around. Those children who choose not to join in, sit with a member of staff in the reading area and look at books or watch their friends move their bodies to the music.

Children behave well and show respect for each other. They share resources and wait their turn patiently. Staff help children to gain a sense of belonging. They encourage them to be independent from a young age and give them choices. For example, staff give children the opportunity to decide which book they would like staff to read to them when they sit together for a group story.

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

- The management team and staff have worked hard since the last inspection to review, evaluate and improve all aspects of the nursery. Staff have attended various training courses and taken ideas from visiting the 'Best Practice' rooms, set up as a training tool by the local authority. They have developed their understanding of how children learn and implemented a better system for planning. As a result, staff and managers have a greater knowledge of their own curriculum and how they deliver it.
- The manager and deputy work closely alongside staff. This helps them to monitor practice more effectively and guide staff to improve their delivery of the curriculum. The manager has systems in place for the supervision of staff and is working on further developing the staff team to be consistently strong.
- Parents speak very highly of the staff and management. They comment on the effective settling-in procedures that helped their children to feel safe, secure and comfortable. They say that communication between the key persons and parents is very good and many like the online system, which staff update throughout the day. Parents comment that they have a real 'partnership' with their child's key person and feel confident that that person knows their child really well. They state that it feels like a home-from-home for their children and some parents chose the nursery for this reason.
- The provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is very good. Staff and managers work extremely well with parents and other professionals to seek early support for any children who require this. Parents are

guided and supported to apply for funding and financial support where relevant. The nursery makes very good use of any additional funding received to provide support for individual children and to purchase resources that they know will benefit those children.

- Staff spend valuable time reviewing and evaluating the way the nursery premises are organised to create an interesting learning environment. However, not as much emphasis is placed on ensuring that furniture is organised effectively at lunchtime. As a result, this period of the day becomes busy, chaotic and cramped. Due to the position of the children's toilets and handwashing facilities, the younger children have to pass through the pre-school room to use these. This can be disruptive for the pre-school children, especially if they are sitting together, for example, to listen to a story.
- Children enjoy playing outdoors in the nursery garden. The manager and staff have focused attention on creating a more interesting and purposeful outdoor learning environment since the last inspection. For example, children now have access to water activities, whereby they pour water from one container to another, estimating whether their new container will hold the same amount of water. They use construction resources to build and develop models. Children have fun using mud in the mud kitchen to make pretend meals and potions.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff demonstrate very good knowledge of safeguarding. They have a secure understanding of the different types of abuse and confidently name signs and symptoms that might alert them that a child was being mistreated or abused. They complete regular training, which helps them to understand wider safeguarding issues, such as the 'Prevent' duty and county lines. Staff are very familiar with the nursery procedures to follow if they do have concerns about children. They talk confidently about the whistle-blowing procedures to follow, should they have concerns about the behaviour of any adults.

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 newly implemented strategies in place to further strengthen the staff team and help to raise the quality of teaching to a consistently high level
- review the organisation of the environment to ensure that routine activities, such as handwashing and mealtimes, are conducive to children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2587500
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10298354
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	80
Name of registered person	Little Teddies Nursery Basildon Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2587501
Telephone number	01268524413
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2022

Information about this early years setting

Little Teddies Nursery registered in 2020 and is located in Basildon. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 7pm, all year round, excluding public holidays and a week at Christmas. It employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 2, 10 hold qualifications at level 3 and two hold a level 6 qualification. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

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 all areas of the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The deputy manager, manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing at the nursery.
- 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 manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation together.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in 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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