

Inspection of The Woodlands Nursery

ST Austins Priory, Cadleigh, Nr Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9HW

Inspection date: 15 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive, eager to enjoy the wide variety of interesting activities that awaits them in this welcoming nursery. Staff get to know children extremely well during comprehensive and sensitive settling-in procedures. They form strong and caring attachments with babies, who reach out to staff for a cuddle as soon as they arrive. Staff are kind and considerate to children, which supports children to behave well. For example, older children happily help each other to find their water bottles when they need a drink in the warm weather.

The manager and staff create a child-centred curriculum. They work very closely with parents to identify children's particular interests and needs. This helps them to successfully build on children's achievements through activities that inspire their learning.

Children benefit enormously from daily opportunities to learn about the natural world around them. For example, children are captivated while watching birds and squirrels outdoors. They whisper, 'Wow!', as staff encourage them to quietly notice the different feeding habits of the squirrels and the birds in a nest. Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise. They show a positive attitude to learning as they climb and balance with determination to extend their physical skills.

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

- Parents speak very highly of the nursery. They comment favourably about the kind and caring staff and say that their children are making good progress. Parents feel fully involved in children's learning and appreciate advice about different aspects of supporting their child, such as weaning and toilet training. There is an effective two-way flow of information that promotes consistency and extends children's learning and development
- The manager is passionate about her role and highly ambitious for the future of the nursery. She leads a dedicated staff team and, together, they regularly reflect on the service they provide for families. Staff say they are happy to work at the setting and feel well supported by the management team. Most of the staff are relatively new to their roles in the nursery and are enthusiastic about developing their skills further. The manager recognises the need to extend professional development opportunities for staff to raise the standard of teaching to an even higher level.
- Staff provide good support for children's speech and language development. For example, babies babble and begin to copy staff as they make sounds with their voices during play. Staff are very responsive and encourage their communication with laughter and fun. Older children are confident communicators. They are happy to explain what they like doing in the nursery to visitors and use an ever-

widening vocabulary.

- Throughout the nursery, staff demonstrate a good understanding of child development. Babies smile with delight as staff playfully encourage them to enjoy a range of sensory experiences. Older children gain good mathematical skills as they count the number of legs on a beetle they spot in the grass. During some adult-led activities, however, staff do not give children time to express their own thoughts and ideas to deepen their engagement and extend their learning further.
- The manager and staff monitor children's development thoroughly. They talk to parents when children first attend to establish children's interests and achievements. Staff continually observe children so that they can provide appropriate and timely support if there are any gaps in their learning. They work with other professionals effectively to ensure that all children reach their full potential.
- Children become increasingly independent under the gentle guidance of the staff. They become motivated learners. For example, older children eagerly and competently chop strawberries to make delicious milkshakes. They show great pride as staff praise their efforts. Children go on to their future education with confidence and self-assurance. Partnerships with local schools are developing and are effective in helping children to become familiar with school life.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team recruits staff safely to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. There is a thorough induction procedure, and all staff attend safeguarding training. They are aware of the signs and symptoms that might indicate a child is at risk of harm. Staff have a firm understanding of local safeguarding procedures. Robust risk assessments are effective in keeping children safe and secure. Staff regularly review the premises for potential hazards and teach children to play in safety.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to develop interactions with children further during adult-led activities to allow children time to explore and follow their own thoughts and ideas

Setting details

Unique reference number	2643680
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10291742
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	30
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Pml Education Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP544974
Telephone number	01752 894737
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Woodlands Nursery registered in 2020 and is situated near Ivybridge, Devon. The nursery is open all year round, Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm. It receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff who work with the children. They all hold appropriate early years qualifications and the manager has a degree in early years education.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Margaret Baird

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 provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at the nursery.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual and the manager about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023