

Inspection of Total Tots Ltd

Balmoral Children Centre, Balmoral Road, MORECAMBE, Lancashire LA3 1HH

Inspection date: 13 July 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 are extremely happy at this welcoming nursery. The bonds between children and their key person are evident. These are built up from the initial settling-in sessions when children first start attending the nursery. Children quickly settle when they arrive as they are greeted by friendly and caring staff. They follow the routines within their room with ease because they are familiar with them. For example, when it is time to go outside, children get their sun hats and line up. As a result, children behave well and develop good self-care skills and independence.

Communication and language are supported particularly well at the nursery. Children have opportunities indoors and outdoors to look at books and listen to stories. Staff sing nursery rhymes with children throughout their play. At snack time, staff say the names of fruit and encourage children to repeat them when they select which fruit they would like. This helps children to develop their speech and language skills.

The children very much enjoy playing outside. Older children balance along planks of wood and coloured bricks. All children enjoy making sandcastles as they play in the sand. Staff support children's mathematical development through water play. For example, children are encouraged to practise filling and emptying containers. Babies enjoy rolling balls down chutes and pushing themselves along on the balance bicycles. Staff praise children's efforts and achievements. This helps children to have positive attitudes towards their learning.

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

- The dedicated and experienced manager has a clear vision for the nursery. She has implemented a curriculum with a particular focus on communication and language. Staff also incorporate children's current interests. However, some activities are too easy for children. For example, children easily complete a circuit as they walk along a balancing beam. Other children confidently direct remote-control cars back and forth. Staff do not always take learning further to challenge children to achieve their full potential.
- The knowledgeable special educational needs coordinator works in partnership with agencies and the families of children who need additional support. She talks confidently about the progress that children make and understands what they need to learn next. External agencies speak positively about the partnerships that they have with the nursery. This effective partnership working means that children receive the support they need to succeed.
- Children are encouraged to be independent. Older children help to set the table for lunch and confidently serve themselves their food. Younger children are learning to pour their own drinks and choose their lunch, while babies feed

themselves successfully. Children confidently manage their personal needs, and know when and how to wash their hands. Consequently, children are developing their independence, and understand the importance of good hygiene practices.

- Leaders and managers support staff in carrying out their roles effectively. For example, staff meet with managers regularly to discuss their professional development and their key group of children. In addition, the provider places great emphasis on supporting staff well-being. Incentives are given to staff in recognition of their hard work. Staff also give 'shout-outs' to each other, which are displayed in the staffroom. This, in turn, has a positive impact on children's personal development and well-being.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery and staff. They say that their children are excited to tell them all about their day. Parents are delighted that their children are happy and content in the welcoming nursery. Parents also enjoy receiving the weekly learning focus that is shared with them via the nursery app. Parents and staff have good relationships, which help children to form secure attachments with staff through positive partnership working.
- The nursery has recently linked with a childcare setting in Australia so that children can become pen pals. The children have enjoyed collecting items to send and are eagerly awaiting their parcel from Australia. Staff encourage children to add their holiday destination to the map displayed so that their friends can learn about the countries they have visited. Families are encouraged to take 'Sunny the Sloth' on adventures outside of nursery for children to talk about with their friends. As a result, children are developing a good understanding of the wider world.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand the signs and symptoms of abuse and their responsibility to protect children from harm. All staff have completed safeguarding training and are aware of how to report any concerns they have. The nursery is well maintained and secure, which helps to keep children safe. For example, access to the nursery is obtained via key-coded doors. The provider has a thorough recruitment process and induction procedure to ensure that staff who work with children are suitable to do so. The nursery has achieved a 'Millie's Mark' award for ensuring that all staff have their first-aid qualification. This means that all staff can respond promptly should any accidents occur.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- devise even better teaching methods to provide children with appropriate levels of challenge in order for them to achieve their full potential.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY370970
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10295233
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	127
Name of registered person	Total Tots Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP911306
Telephone number	01524 411753
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2017

Information about this early years setting

Total Tots Ltd registered in 2008 and is managed by Total Tots Limited. It is situated Morcambe, Lancashire. The nursery employs 19 members of childcare staff. Of these, four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, and 11 staff are qualified at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Kate Martin

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- Managers and the inspector carried out a learning walk together to discuss the intention for children's learning.
- Staff talked to the inspector about how they plan activities and what they do to support children's learning and development. They also explained the procedures that they follow to keep children safe.
- Meetings were held with the leadership and management team.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the nursery's documents, including evidence of staff's suitability and training.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning indoors and outside, and evaluated the impact of adult interactions on children's development.
- The inspector took the written views of parents into consideration.

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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