

Inspection of ACE Nursery

Grange Avenue, DERBY DE23 8DH

Inspection date:

7 September 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

Staff warmly greet children and parents as they arrive at nursery. They quickly engage in conversation and offer support as children hang up their belongings and self-register. This helps children to feel settled and calm as they start the day. Staff spend dedicated time with children when they first start, sensitively providing reassurance and offering experiences that engage them. This means children feel secure as they receive care and attention which is tailored to their individual needs. Children in the baby room delight in staff getting down at their level and joining in with their games. Effective interactions help children to further develop their skills and gain the most from their play.

Staff are good role models and consistently embed expectations for children's behaviour. Children learn to be kind and treat each other with respect. They willingly offer help to one another. For example, at mealtimes, children pass around water jugs and lend a hand if they see that a friend needs help to cut up their food. When children are eating, staff skilfully promote their social and communication skills. On a very hot day, children recognise when they are thirsty and need a drink. Staff extend children's vocabulary by introducing the word 'hydrate'. Children demonstrate their understanding by using the new word in their conversations.

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

- The manager provides strong leadership to a team of skilled and very committed practitioners. Together, they strive to provide high-quality care and education for all children. Professional development for staff is valued and encouraged. This enables staff to continue to develop their knowledge and skills and implement a curriculum that ensures all children reach their full potential.
- The manager is effective in reviewing the provision to ensure that all children make progress. She accurately identifies when children have gaps in their learning and require additional support. Staff have worked in partnership with parents to implement an early communication programme. This is having a positive impact in supporting children's early speaking and listening skills.
- Staff talk to parents and carefully observe children to gain a secure understanding of their individual needs and interests. This helps them to provide a rich variety of experiences that draw children in and motivate them to learn. For example, when playing outside, staff quickly respond to children's ideas. They extend ball games by introducing new equipment. This helps to sustain children's interest and encourages them to practise new skills.
- Staff consistently implement effective strategies to help children to understand the importance of making healthy choices. Children frequently choose to play outside, where they are encouraged to engage in a wide range of physical

activities, such as climbing, balancing and using the trampoline. Staff support children to brush their teeth. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks and meals throughout the day. This helps children to thrive and develop positive attitudes to physical exercise and being healthy.

- Staff encourage all children to make their own choices and develop their independence skills. Staff carefully position toys and resources in the baby and toddler rooms to attract children's attention and enable them to select activities they would like to explore and engage with. Staff extend this in the pre-school by adding picture and word labels to support older children in matching equipment to the corresponding label. This helps children to develop their early reading skills.
- The key-person system is well established in each room and staff know children very well. This enables staff to offer and adapt activities that meet children's needs and help them to learn and make progress. However, the key person does not consistently undertake personal care routines with their key children. This means that the organisation of nappy changing routines does not fully support continuity of care for each child.
- Parents comment that they are fully involved in their child's learning. They feel valued as staff plan activities to learn about children's home backgrounds, including special celebrations such as Ramadan and the Chinese Moon Festival.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager provides regular training opportunities to ensure that all staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and child protection procedures. This includes knowing how to recognise the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. Staff know who they would contact to seek advice and how to raise any potential concerns. Staff undertake appropriate risk assessments to help minimise any potential risks. For example, they carefully check that safety nets are secure before children use the trampoline. Staff provide close supervision at all times to promote the safety and welfare of children. Safer sleeping guidelines are rigorously implemented to ensure that the youngest children are protected.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the role of the key person to further support the individual care needs of younger children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206189
Local authority	Derby
Inspection number	10301788
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	74
Number of children on roll	63
Name of registered person	Austin Community Enterprise Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905120
Telephone number	01332 774255
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2017

Information about this early years setting

ACE Nursery registered in 1999. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 3 and 5. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round, except for two weeks between Christmas and New Year and on bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kate Scheel

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 inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager of outdoor activities.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager. She reviewed relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The manager and inspector conducted a learning walk together, discussing the learning intention for children and how the environment is arranged.

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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