

Inspection of Ivy House Day Nursery

37 Regent Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1RU

Inspection date: 15 September 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 are welcomed warmly by their key person as they say goodbye to their parents at the door. Staff say how well the system works with children who have now developed confidence and secure attachments with the caring staff team. This helps to prepare children for routines that they will follow at school. Staff provide a calm and nurturing environment, which enables children to feel safe and secure. Children and babies settle quickly and demonstrate their strong bonds with staff. Staff know children well and are attentive to their needs. Children are confident to explore and show a positive attitude to their learning.

Staff give children clear instructions for what is expected of them during the day. As a result, children follow these with ease as they line up when it is time to go inside for lunch and wait patiently until it is their turn to wash their hands. They are kind and considerate to each other and know how to share resources appropriately. Staff plan an effective curriculum for children's physical development. Children enjoy playing in the outside area, running, kicking different-sized balls and climbing. Children have daily opportunities to visit the dance studio, where staff plan a range of active sessions, including yoga, to further enhance children's physical development.

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

- The dedicated management team has devised a broad and ambitious curriculum, covering all areas of learning, that is based on the learning needs and current interests of the children who attend. Overall, the enthusiastic staff team implements the curriculum effectively across the nursery, supported by a strong management team.
- Staff communicate well and speak clearly to children to develop their language skills. Children talk about what they are doing and learn to use their imaginations, such as when they pretend to make a cup of tea for their friend. As a result children's language skills are developing well.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is supported, as children play an important role in protecting the environment. The setting has been awarded an 'eco award' for looking after their environment. The committee consists of children, staff and parents who are all eager to learn about recycling by supporting this in the setting and at home.
- Staff generally know their key children well. They understand children's stages of development and what they need to learn next. Children make progress in their learning, as staff incorporate their next steps into the activities they plan. However, when children transition to another room, their new key person does not always know what children's learning targets are. This means that children do not always experience consistency in their learning.

- Staff's professional development is a high priority. Managers use regular supervision sessions and performance management procedures to help to identify where staff need training. Staff comment on how managers support their overall well-being.
- Children benefit from experiences that further enhance their knowledge of the wider world. They visit the local market to buy fresh ingredients, which helps to strengthen community links and give children opportunities to explore by taking trips out into the town.
- Children and babies are developing a love of reading and enjoy a wide range of books and nursery rhymes. Staff enthusiastically read stories and the children's laughter fills the room. Children join in with familiar words and phrases. In addition to this, children and parents borrow books to read together at home, which promotes children's continued learning.
- Staff plan well, overall, to support young children to develop positive attitudes to learning. Babies are eager to investigate adult-led activities. However, the routine of the day means babies spend considerable time having to wait. As a result, they are not always supported to develop key skills such as making independent choices.
- Partnership with parents is a strength of the nursery. Parents speak very highly about the service they receive and praise the work that staff do. Parents value the workshops and courses that the nursery invite them along to. This strong partnership helps to support children's learning and development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a good understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children, including whistle-blowing. They recognise the signs and symptoms that might indicate a child is at risk from harm or abuse. Staff receive regular safeguarding training. They know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns regarding a child's welfare. The management team has robust recruitment procedures in place and completes ongoing checks to ensure the suitability of staff. Staff use risk assessments and daily checks to make sure that the environment is free from hazards and children's safety remains a high priority.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the key-person system to ensure staff know their key children's learning targets when children transition to new rooms
- strengthen the curriculum for the youngest children to support them to develop positive attitudes to learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2625610
Local authority	Trafford
Inspection number	10281099
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 3
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Maple House Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP541414
Telephone number	0161 929 1307
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Ivy House Day Nursery registered in 2021 and is located in Altrincham. The setting employs eight childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Grundy

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 leaders and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with senior leaders at appropriate times during the inspection and in a scheduled meeting.
- The inspector and the manager completed a learning walk together across all areas of the nursery to understand how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including staff's suitability to work with children.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children 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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