

Inspection of Clopton Nursery Trust

Clopton Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6TE

Inspection date: 28 September 2023

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thrive in this exceptionally high-quality provision. Staff take time and care to set up exciting play invitations that develop children's curiosity and extend their inquisitive nature. Staff develop warm and trusting relationships with parents. They hold purposeful conversations to gather detailed information about the children. Staff then use this knowledge, coupled with their own professional expertise, to deliver finely tuned teaching to meet each child's needs. The curriculum provides excellent support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Leaders and staff have exceptionally high expectations, and all children, including those with SEND, make extremely strong progress.

All children in the setting frequently access outdoor learning in their forest school area. Children enthusiastically run up and down the hill in order to get to the exciting outdoor learning space. They delight in rolling down the hill and giggle with their peers as they do this. Staff skilfully teach children how to keep themselves safe and how to identify and manage risk. They lead children enthusiastically in learning the rules of the provision through singing. Children are knowledgeable about the staff expectations and share these confidently with visitors. For example, they remind their visitor to walk around the outside of the log circle and not to touch the fire pit.

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

- The manager is inspirational and leads the staff team with integrity. She strives to consistently find new ways of improving all areas of the setting, ensuring the best possible outcomes for children. Staff are included in shaping the provision, and they are exceptionally enthusiastic and committed to their roles. The team works seamlessly together and is driven to provide the highest-quality service for children.
- Parents are delighted with the provision. They are extremely complimentary about the nurturing relationships that staff develop with their children and how well they get to know them. Parents feel fully involved and included in their children's learning and development. They are overwhelmingly positive about the broad range of experiences on offer and the excellent progress that their children make.
- The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) supports staff expertly. As a result of this support and its own excellent knowledge, the staff team skilfully identifies gaps in children's development. Staff respond swiftly to provide targeted intervention and ensure that children get exactly the support they need to reach their potential. The staff team works in strong partnership with external agencies, which further contributes to improved outcomes for children with SEND.

- Children's communication and language are supported extremely well. Staff use simple sign language and objects of reference consistently to help children communicate their needs. Children who speak English as an additional language make good progress. Staff work closely with parents to learn key words and phrases. They pay careful attention to children's lived experiences and use this information to ensure that children develop a secure sense of connection. For example, staff use the theme tunes from children's favourite cartoons in their home language to welcome them into the setting.
- Staff make the most of spontaneous and seasonal opportunities to extend children's learning. Children are enthralled by experiences where they explore the use of a range of natural resources that they collected on an autumn walk to mark make with paint. They are highly engaged and skilfully manipulate sticks, conkers and leaves to create a collaborative piece of artwork.
- Staff provide exceptional opportunities for children to develop their own thoughts and ideas. They actively observe and tune into children's words and actions. Staff take a lead from children to further develop their learning and to ensure high levels of engagement. For example, when children want to drive figures through rice in a sensory tray, staff copy their words and actions to both validate and extend their play.
- Staff ensure that children have every opportunity to develop their independence and practise their self-care skills. Thoughtful interactions encourage children to do things for themselves, as staff offer just the right amount of support. Well-sequenced teaching builds on what children can already do and increases their confidence and self-awareness.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have high levels of knowledge and understanding of their role in protecting children from harm. Effective policies and procedures underpin highly responsive practice. Staff attend regular training across a wide range of safeguarding issues. They are clear about the action to take if they are concerned about a child, and they maintain a highly professional and confidential approach. Staff support children effectively to learn about safety and teach them how to manage risk through adventurous play. There is a highly effective safeguarding culture across the setting. Leaders actively extend and develop staff knowledge and confidence in order to ensure the provision reflects current legislation and guidance.

Setting details

Unique reference number	200556
Local authority	Warwickshire
Inspection number	10307838
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 11
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	327
Name of registered person	Clopton Nursery Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP521918
Telephone number	01789 269360
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Clopton Nursery Trust Ltd registered in 2000. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff. In addition to the manager, who holds early years professional status, the nursery employs one staff member who is qualified to level 6, one who is qualified to level 5, 10 who hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one who holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.20pm. The out-of-school care is provided Monday to Friday, from 8am to 8.45am, and 3.20pm to 6pm during term time, and from 8am to 6pm during school holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Gadsby

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 and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The SENCo spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- 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 inspector carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity with the manager.
- Parents and grandparents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed 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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