

Inspection of Alphabet Day Nursery

Camphill Centre, Hunsbury Hill Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN4 9UW

Inspection date: 3 November 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

The staff place children at the heart of every decision made at the nursery. Children are excited to arrive at the nursery. As soon as the door opens, they rush in with glee. They are greeted by caring staff who respond to the needs of each child, whether it is a cuddle or listening to what they have eaten for breakfast. Children willingly share their home experiences and know that what they say will be valued by the staff. New children settle extremely quickly and form close bonds with staff. Staff skilfully use information from parents and their own observations and assessments to plan the experiences they offer to children. Children are motivated and are supported by knowledgeable staff who promote their learning and development to an exceptionally high level. Children become deeply absorbed in their learning, for example, as they use spray bottles to melt ice to reveal hidden sea creatures.

Managers and staff consider children's well-being to be essential to progress. This is reflected by the caring interactions between the staff and children. Children are sensitive to the needs of others and are polite and well mannered. They play together purposefully and show great consideration for their friends. For example, when crossing a wet bridge, children help each other by taking each other's hands. As they reach the other side, they respond with 'thank you' and ask if they would like some help in return.

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

- Managers have designed an ambitious curriculum that puts the well-being of children at the heart of what they do. They thoroughly evaluate the environment with a focus to find new ways to improve all areas of the setting. Staff work seamlessly together as they strive to ensure the best possible start for every child at the nursery.
- Staff have an extensive understanding of the curriculum and how children learn. They skilfully plan for children's next steps to precisely match their individual needs. All staff know the children exceptionally well, even those children who have only just started. This allows staff to move children's learning on from the moment they start nursery.
- Managers and staff place a high importance on children's language development. Children learn new words as staff extend their knowledge and language through play. They talk about curved sides and edges as children draw patterns with their 'index finger'.
- Children who speak English as an additional language develop their understanding of the English language quickly. Staff use key vocabulary from children's home language to enhance their learning of the English language. Staff support children to respect the diversity of all people by embracing

different celebrations. They invite parents to share their family's cultures and religious events with the children.

- The staff support children to make excellent progress in their mathematical development. Older children recall prior learning when finding shapes in the sand. They describe how a 'spiral looks like a firework' and that a 'square has four sides the same size.' Younger children join in number songs and staff support them with counting as they jump.
- Staff strive to ensure that all children are taught skills to become independent learners. Children are highly independent as they put on rain suits and wellington boots when going outside. They confidently use cutlery when eating and can pour their own water into a cup. Even the youngest children are encouraged to wash their hands after a nappy change. As a result, older children naturally become independent with their self-care.
- Leadership and management is exceptional. The inspirational leadership team has embedded a rigorous system to support and monitor the development of staff. Leaders have high expectations for all staff and this is reflected in everyday practice. Staff are enthused to develop their own practice. They seek out training courses to improve their own skills and knowledge. As a result, all staff hold an early years childcare qualification. The senior team meets regularly with staff to discuss their progress and general well-being. Staff report they love working at the nursery and feel valued.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive excellent support. Staff are quick to identify and act on any concerns. They recognise the importance of working with other professionals, such as health visitors and speech and language therapists. This ensures that children receive any early intervention they may need as swiftly as possible so that all children make excellent progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff have a culture of safeguarding that allows them to identify children who are at risk and to refer any concerns. The safeguarding policies and procedures are stringent and extremely well understood. As a result, staff are highly confident in identifying signs and symptoms of abuse. They understand what they must do should they have any concerns about children's well-being or the conduct of their colleagues. Managers regularly check that staff understand their role in safeguarding through questioning, regular safeguarding newsletters and ongoing training.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY283423
Local authority	West Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10289119
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	0 to 3
Total number of places	77
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Evans, Angela
Registered person unique reference number	RP512663
Telephone number	01604 771166
Date of previous inspection	13 November 2017

Information about this early years setting

Alphabet Day Nursery registered in 2004. The nursery operates from the Camp Hill area of Northampton. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, except bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are nine members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. This includes one member of staff who holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Annette Franklin

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 setting.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk and talked about the curriculum and what they want the children to learn at the nursery.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Children chose to communicate with the inspector during the inspection.
- 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 about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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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