

Inspection of Forest Friends Childcare

Marsh House Sports And Community Centre, Marsh House Avenue, Billingham TS23 3HB

Inspection date:

2 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

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The provider is absolutely committed to the service which the nursery provides. Staff are well qualified and highly knowledgeable, and implement an ambitious curriculum successfully. Children flourish and thrive in the inspiring and enabling learning environment, which staff provide for them. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are highly motivated and demonstrate excellent levels of self-control. Children show high levels of care and compassion towards their friends. For example, they happily give up a toy to make a friend happy. This is because staff are wonderful role models for children. They communicate extremely well and are consistent in the way they gently manage children's behaviour. Staff consistently support children to have consideration for others' feelings and regularly provide children with positive praise. This helps to raise children's confidence and self-esteem extremely successfully.

Staff have an excellent understanding that all children need physical strength to engage in activities and to attempt new skills. Children and babies learn to use their bodies very effectively during their play. Toddlers investigate how they can move planks to safely climb and balance. Older children develop small muscles in their hands as they pinch pipettes in water to make a pretend cup of tea. Staff carefully organise the indoor and outdoor spaces, so children are free to access a very wide and exciting range of toys and experiences.

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

- Staff are extremely skilled and enthusiastic as they expertly guide children's learning. They use skilful questioning to support children's thinking, and to help them to make connections and solve problems. This helps children to concentrate for exceptional periods of time as they develop their play. For instance, children persevere well when they find it tricky to use a hammer to tap nails into different-sized pumpkins and vegetables.
- All staff, including new members of the team, demonstrate a deep understanding of how to build on children's growing independence and social skills. For example, they help children to practise and extend their developing language with high-quality, back-and-forth interactions and sign language during circle and story times. Children make excellent progress in their speaking, listening and attention skills.
- The provider and staff carefully observe and consult as a team to ensure that they meet each child's needs successfully. They work very closely with parents and any professionals involved with children. This excellent commitment to inclusion ensures that staff shape the educational programmes and environment with all children's needs in mind. This helps all children to make the best possible progress.

- There is an excellent key-person system, which supports the development of strong relationships at all levels. Children and babies receive great levels of care. Staff create a very caring and nurturing learning environment for children. This helps children to feel safe and secure within the early days of attending or when moving rooms. This fully supports children's emotional well-being.
- Staff work hard to ensure that children develop the fundamental British values needed to help them to become effective future citizens and work together. Staff actively embed golden rules, such as 'kindness' and 'sharing is caring', in their practice. They are very focused on supporting children to recognise and communicate their feelings, such as voicing their opinions and using voting to help to make decisions. As a result, children demonstrate very high levels of respect for others.
- Staff consistently promote healthy lifestyles. Children benefit from nutritious meals. They learn about the vitamins and minerals their bodies need to stay healthy. Children know to drink fresh water when they feel thirsty. Staff nurture children's independence from a very early age. Children develop a strong sense of responsibility, such as when they help to prepare the table for meals and manage their self-care needs extremely well.
- Children and their families are at the heart of this exemplary nursery. Staff are very aware of the need to support parents, particularly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic climate. Parents are highly appreciative of the substantial support they receive. They say that staff are amazing and share details of enjoyable learning activities that they can do at home with their children, to help to continue their children's rapid progress.
- The provider and management team accurately evaluate the nursery to help to identify specific aspects they would like to enhance. For example, they have added an allotment and a separate sensory room to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Additionally, the provider and management team have swiftly reviewed policies and increased the security measurements in place inside the building. This followed an incident where a child was able to leave their room and play in the secure reception area. Staff use a biometric access-control system to ensure that only parents or invited visitors have access into the building.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open, vigilant safeguarding culture across the nursery. Staff know the signs and symptoms which could indicate a child is at risk of harm and can confidently explain the procedures they would follow. Staff attend regular safeguarding training, and managers use scenarios to test out their knowledge. The provider implements ongoing suitability checks to ensure that all staff are suitable. She makes sure that the nursery is always safe and hygienic for children, such as staff complete daily risk assessments. Staff involve children in this process. This helps to develop children's knowledge of managing risks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY560246
Local authority	Stockton-on-Tees
Inspection number	10313114
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 4
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	106
Name of registered person	Forest Friends Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP560245
Telephone number	01642 566718
Date of previous inspection	27 July 2021

Information about this early years setting

Forest Friends Childcare registered in 2018. It is situated in a private space within Marsh House Community Centre in Billingham. The nursery employs 23 members of childcare staff. Of these, five staff have relevant early years qualifications at level 6, two at level 5, thirteen at level 3 and two at level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, apart from bank holidays and two weeks at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jan Harvey

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The provider joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education across all age-groups during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning. She discussed children's learning and development with the provider, staff and the manager responsible for children with SEND.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do at the nursery. They discussed the rules and boundaries in the nursery.
- Parents' shared their views of the nursery with the inspector in person and through digital messages.
- The provider and the inspector carried out a joint observation during a group activity.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and members of the management team. She discussed and looked at relevant documentation for keeping children safe, including accidents, incidents and managing children's allergies. The inspector looked at the complaints record. She viewed 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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