

Inspection of The Joint Colleges Nursery (Cambridge) Limited

6B Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EB

Inspection date: 17 November 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	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are confident, well settled and enjoy attending the nursery. Staff take time to get to know children and their families from the start, so they understand children's experiences and needs. They know that children need to feel safe and secure to be ready to learn. Children build strong bonds with staff, who treat them with respect and dignity. They thrive in the positive and open environment that leaders create.

Leaders are ambitious to help all children build secure foundations, so that they can make the most of their future education. Staff plan to implement the curriculum effectively, using what they know about children's interests and individual stage of development. Children are motivated to join in and show curiosity in the world around them. Staff introduce vocabulary and early mathematical concepts. They challenge children to broaden their thinking and understanding. Young children count the dinosaur eggs they make in the sand pit. They decide how many to make and begin to understand how many more they need to make to achieve their goal.

Staff provide consistent messages that help children take increasing responsibility for their behaviour. Children learn to consider the impact of their actions on others. They learn to take turns and share with their friends.

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

- Following the last inspection, leaders have worked closely with the local authority, seeking training and guidance to improve children's experiences at the nursery. Leaders have established an ambitious curriculum that helps children to build on what they know over time. Staff have made changes to their practice, reflecting on training they have received, and implement the curriculum well.
- Staff working with babies are caring and vigilant to ensure babies' changing needs are promptly met. They work closely with parents to understand babies' home routines and make reasonable adaptations to practice that help babies settle. Staff implement the curriculum well. They support babies' natural urge to climb and explore in a safe environment. Staff stay with sleeping children to ensure that they are monitored and to help keep them safe.
- Parents are positive about staff and the nursery. They know the nursery curriculum and receive regular updates about what their child is learning and how they can support ongoing learning at home. Parents state that their children are happy to attend, and that they believe their needs are well met and that they are safe.
- Staff talk to children as they play. They plan well to help children continue to build a wide vocabulary as they progress through the nursery. Babies hear staff

sing songs and rhymes spontaneously. Children hear repeated words as staff read books that they choose. Staff continue to introduce words and provide clear and well-pronounced speech. This is beneficial for all children, especially for the large number of children who speak English as an additional language.

- Leaders and staff are reflective in practice. They have identified how the pandemic has continued to affect some aspects of social development for some children in pre-school. Staff have introduced different ways to help children build good social skills, that also support the curriculum aim to introduce language and understanding for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Children's behaviour is good and they demonstrate increasing self-control as they manage small disagreements in play.
- Staff are focused on providing children with good-quality care and learning experiences. They report that they feel well supported in their roles and that they receive regular supervision meetings that help them to improve. Leaders identify any weaker practice, however, plans to further improve staff practice are not yet embedded. This means that at lunchtimes, children who do not need a lunchtime nap, do not always receive the rich learning opportunities they enjoy at other times of the day.
- Children's independence is promoted well. Staff encourage children to have a go to do things for themselves from the start. They encourage children to make choices, to pour their drinks and put on their coats to play outside.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders ensure all staff and committee members receive training about safeguarding and child protection. This helps to create a positive and open safeguarding culture that puts children's interests first. Staff are knowledgeable about potential risks to children and are vigilant to identify any possible indicators that a child may be at risk of harm. Leaders follow robust recruitment and induction processes that help to assure the suitability of adults working with children. Staff know the procedure to follow should they have any concerns about children or adults working in the nursery.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- focus the continuous professional development of staff to raise the quality of teaching to the highest level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221578
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10299621
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	Joint Colleges Nursery (Cambridge) Limited (The)
Registered person unique reference number	RP517145
Telephone number	01223 315 084
Date of previous inspection	25 May 2023

Information about this early years setting

The Joint Colleges Nursery (Cambridge) Limited registered in 1987. The nursery operates all year round except for bank holidays and the days between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm each weekday. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 13 members of staff, including the manager, employed to work with the children. Of these, 10 hold an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3 or above. Two staff hold qualified teacher status and one holds a qualification at level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Gail Warnes

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 provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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