

Inspection of Blue Skies Private Day Nursery

184 Crewe Road, Alsager, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST7 2JA

Inspection date: 24 April 2024

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The manager and staff know that children learn best when they feel safe and secure. Children's laughter and conversations echo throughout the nursery. Staff are kind and place children at the centre of everything they do. Babies seek out staff for reassurances when they feel unsettled. Staff are nurturing and give babies the comfort they need. As a result, babies settle quickly. Exciting learning opportunities ignite children's interest and thirst for learning. For example, children learn about farm animals from real hands-on experiences. They enjoy caring for the lambs and talking to the farmer. This helps children to gain a greater insight into the world around them.

Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. They use effective methods to praise and reward children. This helps children to learn positive behaviours, such as sharing and taking turns. Furthermore, children demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. Staff support children to understand their own feelings and emotions. As a result, children are confident and have a sense of pride in their achievements.

Songs and rhymes are a constant throughout the nursery. Staff and children spontaneously burst into songs. For example, when children are washing their pretend babies, staff sing 'wash, wash, wash your face'. This provides great opportunities for children to develop their speaking skills as they join in with songs. Children learn to be independent. Babies learn to feed themselves with a spoon. Older children help to set the table and learn to serve themselves. This supports children's confidence and self-esteem.

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

- The manager and staff have worked together to revitalise the curriculum. The new curriculum is carefully sequenced and enables staff to plan an exciting range of learning opportunities around children's interests. As a result, children are actively engaged in their learning and make good progress.
- The manager and staff recognise the importance of children attending the nursery on a regular basis. They work in partnership with parents to ensure that children are regular attenders. However, on a small number of occasions, staff do not fully consider how to support children who are absent for long periods of time. This means that some children do not receive their full education entitlement.
- The manager has made significant improvements since the previous inspection. She strives to make further improvements and has a clear development plan for the nursery. For example, she has plans to develop the outdoor play area to enhance the outdoor curriculum for children. All staff attend regular training, which has contributed to the improvements at the nursery. The manager also

supports them to gain higher qualifications and has effective systems to supervise staff. However, there is little support provided for the manager to help ensure that she maintains the good-quality provision for children.

- There is a strong focus on supporting children's communication and language development. Staff are skilled communicators who engage in meaningful discussions with children. For example, staff ask children pertinent questions about the process for planting broad beans. This provides opportunities for children to use new words, such as 'compost', 'trowel' and 'scoop'. Overall, children become confident communicators.
- Children relish the opportunities to re-enact stories. Toddlers are enthralled as they wade through the water and giggle in delight as they throw the flour in the air to represent a snowstorm. They repeat the narrative, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', as they move through the story. These lively activities have a positive impact on children's early literacy.
- Mathematics is firmly embedded and is carefully woven into all activities. Children count with confidence and understand that zero has a place value. Younger children learn about numbers through songs, such as 'Five Little Monkeys'. Children also develop an understanding of mathematical concepts, such as 'short' and 'long'. They competently match and sort the plates and cutlery as they set the table for meals. Consequently, children develop positive attitudes towards early mathematics.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is effective. Staff work harmoniously with parents and professionals to monitor and assess children's progress. They make swift referrals to other agencies when they identify gaps in children's learning. Verbal and visual aids, such as pictures, help children to make choices and have a voice. These well-timed interventions help children make steady and sustained progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- tighten the support for the manager to help sustain and maintain the improvements across the nursery
- strengthen the systems to ensure that children receive their full educational entitlement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343285
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10294051
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 5
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Woodcock, Sheridan
Registered person unique reference number	RP512852
Telephone number	01270 883893
Date of previous inspection	3 May 2023

Information about this early years setting

Blue Skies Private Day Nursery registered in 2007. It is located in Alsager. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7am to 6pm. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Chris Scully

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 and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector spoke to the children to find out about their time at the nursery.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024