

# Inspection of Natterjacks Day Nursery at St Johns

627-629 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 3NG

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Inspection date: 5 June 2024

**Overall effectiveness** **Good**

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The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous  
inspection Good

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is good**

Children settle well on arrival at the nursery. They develop secure attachments to staff and readily go to them for reassurance when needed. In each room, staff consider children's interests and link stories and experiences well to these when planning. Staff successfully build on what children already know and can do across a broad range of areas. During the inspection, babies repeated the names of animals and the sounds they make while handling toy land and sea animals. Two-year-old children enjoyed the sensory experience of pretend mud while playing imaginatively with pig characters from a favourite television programme. Three- and four-year-old children used new words they had learned while playing imaginatively with stick puppets linked to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' book.

The manager and staff work closely with parents to identify and close any gaps in children's learning. They invite other professionals into the nursery to support children and staff. They use additional funding effectively to meet the needs of children. Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. By the time children move onto school, they have essential skills and demonstrate high levels of self-esteem and confidence.

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

- Staff are working increasingly well as a team following some staffing changes since COVID-19. Regular meetings with the manager help staff to reflect on their practice and support their well-being. Staff training frequently focuses on safeguarding children. However, currently staff are receiving guidance to help them to enhance the oral language of children.
- Overall, children engage well in activities and display a positive attitude to learning. However, during some group activities, staff do not ensure that they or children are positioned well and settled before they start. Consequently, on these occasions, some children are not focused and ready to engage in learning and distract others.
- Children are learning to behave well and use good manners. For example, children say 'excuse me' to gain attention before speaking. Staff involve older children in making decisions. For example, children meet to provide their ideas for the following week's planning and menus. They enjoy taking roles, such as setting tables as lunch monitor and assessing risks as safety officer. These are some of the ways that staff help children learn to be responsible and keep safe.
- There is a strong focus on developing children's communication skills. Staff model language well and teach children new words as they play. Children sing songs and hear lots of stories read by staff. Encouraged by staff, children retell stories using props, such as stick puppets.

- Staff gather and make good use of information from parents to help children to settle well. Parents comment that staff know their children and their unique ways well. They refer to a friendly atmosphere and feeling part of the nursery family. Parents and staff exchange information about children's development electronically and at the end of the day. This helps to keep parents well informed about their children's progress.
- Staff thoughtfully plan inclusive menus to cater for all children's specific dietary needs. Staff also consider allergies and intolerances when providing sensory play materials, for example, they provide gluten-free dough.
- The leadership and management team take on board the views of staff, parents and children to help identify areas to improve. Changes in the baby room and nappy changing room, including removal of the washing machine and tumble drier and installation of new windows, have improved ventilation. Currently, suggestions are being gathered and changes being made to improve the outdoor curriculum. This is to increase opportunities for children to be physically active in their play and for those who prefer to learn outdoors on a larger scale.
- Children listen to stories which reflect different families and people with a diverse range of abilities. They talk about the differences between themselves and others and learn that they are unique. They meet a range of people who work in the local area on walks around the village. They also regularly visit a care home to talk with the residents. Children are prepared well for life in modern Britain.

## **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:**

- support staff to position themselves more effectively during activities to help children to engage and focus on their learning
- build on the supervision and coaching arrangements to support staff to raise the quality of their practice and children's education.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY551498
<b>Local authority</b>	Sefton
<b>Inspection number</b>	10339132
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	0 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	51
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	81
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Natterjacks Childcare Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP908372
<b>Telephone number</b>	01704 570289
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	12 December 2019

## Information about this early years setting

Natterjacks Day Nursery at St Johns registered in 2017 and is in Ainsdale, Southport. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one at level 5 and one at level 6 with early years teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays. 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

Lynne Naylor

## 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.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together.
- Three joint observations were carried out by the inspector and the manager.
- A meeting was held with the leadership and management team.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, children, parents and grandparents at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the nursery's documents. This included evidence about staff suitability and training.

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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