

Inspection of Castle Nursery Pre School & OOSC

Castle Nursery Pre School, The Blundells, Kenilworth CV8 2PE

Inspection date: 5 June 2024

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Staff at this pre-school embrace a genuinely child-centred approach in all aspects of their provision. Children enthusiastically arrive with a strong desire to learn. They greet their friends and immediately engage in a variety of high-quality activities. For example, during group time, children share their toys from home that all start with the same sound. Children demonstrate incredible pride when they successfully solve small problems and take responsibility for their learning. Due to the staff's authentic and meaningful conversations with the children, they enthusiastically elaborate on their ideas and often come up with incredible new ones. They are exceptional communicators who use a rich vocabulary and language structures accurately. Children eagerly discover new flavours and textures during their play in the garden, and quickly learn and remember new vocabulary. For example, during an outdoor baking activity, children are curious to learn about various ingredients that they need to use to bake naturally scented cakes.

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, managers conducted a thorough assessment of the educational gaps identified in children's learning and development. As a result, managers implemented highly successful strategies to rapidly boost children's progress. For example, children who speak English as an additional language received additional support through increased time spent reading bilingual books and engaging with story materials.

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

- The managers have developed and implemented an excellent curriculum that sets high goals for all children who attend. The managers and staff focus on firmly embedding essential skills for all children before they move on to their next level of education. These skills include independence, positive self-esteem, a love for learning, social skills, confidence, and resilience. Children benefit further from developing their knowledge through a variety of exciting and innovative experiences and activities. For example, they go on trips to local attractions, learn about different artists, welcome interesting guests to their pre-school, and develop a real passion for reading.
- In this pre-school, children receive excellent teaching and are encouraged to develop their mathematical skills through highly engaging activities. For example, staff incorporate mathematical challenges into planned activities, such as searching for missing numbers on rockets. This sparks children's excitement and fosters their early mathematical problem-solving skills.
- Children's behaviour and manners are praiseworthy. They consistently and politely offer help and guidance to each other. The staff play a significant role in promoting children's critical thinking by asking thought-provoking questions. For example, children who have made three 'cakes' in the mud kitchen graciously

volunteer to make more cakes for their friends. When the staff ask about the number of additional cakes needed to ensure that every friend receives one, children allocate each cupcake and calculate the required amount that is left.

- The managers effectively engage with the staff members through regular supervision meetings and daily observations. By conducting regular meetings, they gain valuable insight into the impact of staff's teaching on the learning and well-being of the children. Moreover, all staff consistently participate in regular training sessions and professional development opportunities to continuously enhance all children's already high-quality education and development.
- Children enjoy a balanced diet and ample opportunities for physical activity indoors and outdoors. They enjoy sliding, splashing in a paddling pool, baking in the mud kitchen, and building in a construction area. Staff emphasise healthy choices related to food, rest, and exercise. They also go above and beyond to provide enriching experiences that help children to feel valued and respect other people and communities beyond their own. For instance, children learn a reflective poem before lunch that encourages empathy and an appreciation for their world and community.
- The managers actively engage with other agencies to ensure that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive top priority in accessing early intervention and highly effective support. The special educational needs coordinator collaborates with local authorities to secure additional funding for implementing evidence-based interventions that focus on children's outcomes. Consequently, all children make rapid progress in their learning and development from their individual starting points.
- The managers prioritise building strong and effective partnerships with parents. As a result, all staff are dedicated to establishing trusting and informative relationships with parents, who consistently give positive feedback about the pre-school. Parents compliment staff and managers for their children's remarkable progress. They say that their children come home with new knowledge about numbers, animals, and other exciting topics. Parents feel well supported and guided in extending their children's education at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	2678352
Local authority	Warwickshire
Inspection number	10346103
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	3 to 11
Total number of places	85
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Castle Nursery Kenilworth Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910258
Telephone number	01926851821
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Castle Nursery Pre School & OOSC registered in 2022. The pre-school operates from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The pre-school has 14 childcare staff members, including three with qualified teacher status, two with level 6 qualifications, and six with a level 3 qualification. The pre-school offers funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anna Makowska

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 provider.
- The deputy manager, manager, and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at pre-school.

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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