

Inspection of Sharrow School Childcare Services

Sharrow School, Sitwell Road, SHEFFIELD, South Yorkshire S7 1BE

Inspection date: 12 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	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The manager and the staff in this inspiring nursery provide high levels of care and education for the community it serves. Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make excellent progress from their individual starting points and are fully prepared for their transition to the next stage of their learning at three years old. Staff have very high expectations for all aspects of children's development. They build strong bonds with all children, including the high proportion who speak English as an additional language, and with their families. Children show they are very happy, independent and confident. For instance, one- and two-year-old children proudly work together to arrange their chairs into a circle, sit for increasing periods, listen carefully and join in enthusiastically with well-told songs and stories.

Children and babies demonstrate they feel safe and secure. Staff are very positive role models and children learn to share, take turns and be kind to each other as they go through the day. Babies and children who have difficulty managing their own feelings and emotions are very well supported to play with others and behave well. For instance, children politely show each other to their seat and take turns to drive the train that they have imaginatively created from crates and other large objects.

Parents are very appreciative of staff's commitment to their children's learning and well-being and, particularly, welcome the guidance they receive through the regular parent workshops.

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

- The manager is highly ambitious to ensure that every child makes the very best possible progress during their time in the nursery. She works very closely with her deputy to skilfully evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery to make sure that it constantly improves. They make very good use of training and research to provide very carefully planned, enriching and supportive experiences to promote children's understanding of the world, for instance, and their communication skills.
- Staff develop children's speaking and listening skills extremely well. They skilfully plan to introduce them to a rich vocabulary built on their own interests and widening knowledge of the world. For instance, children learn to describe the food in their home corner and at snack times as 'crunchy', 'delicious', 'sweet' or even 'disgusting'. Staff sing songs, recite rhymes and play games that introduce babies and children to appropriate words and phrases, such as 'scooping' and 'pouring' in the water play. They use pictures, sign language and puppets to very good effect to secure children's listening skills and careful attention.

- Staff provide highly effective support to children with SEND and those who may be vulnerable and need further support. They identify gaps in children's learning and development at an early stage and act promptly to address them. Staff plan very precisely to help them achieve key steps. They work very closely with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists and education psychologists, to ensure that children achieve their potential. Staff make good use of any additional funding to provide one-to-one support and further training, for example.
- Staff strongly encourage a love of books and stories. Staff identify a range of songs, rhymes and books that will motivate and engage babies and children as they progress through the nursery. They make very good use of large books to guide children to lift flaps and build their anticipation when they listen to the story of 'Dear Zoo', for instance. Parents have many opportunities to share their children's reading and to learn about the value of books through parent workshops.
- Staff work closely with all families, particularly those who speak English as an additional language to support children's language and cultural awareness. They involve parents in sharing key words, traditions and festivals throughout children's activities and daily life, such as at snack times and in creative activities.
- Children's positive behaviour and attitudes are extremely well promoted. Staff are extremely mindful of the babies' and children's immediate personal and emotional needs, and staff use smiles, praise and cuddles to reassure them and to build relationships. Staff are consistently positive, and they encourage children to say 'please' and 'thank you' as they play and learn.
- Children's health and well-being and physical skills are developed well. Children love to dance and join in lively action songs, such as 'Row, Row, Row your Boat' and 'Wind the Bobbin Up'. They create swirling patterns in water and sand. These activities are planned to help children develop the control they need for their later writing skills.
- Parents very strongly recommend the nursery. They appreciate the warm and sensitive nature of all staff and the strong contribution they make to children's cultural and personal development.

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	EY360222
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	10346889
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	1 to 3
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Sharrow Nursery, Infant and Junior School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP526947
Telephone number	0114 255 1704
Date of previous inspection	30 August 2018

Information about this early years setting

Sharrow School Childcare Services registered in 2007 and is based in Sheffield. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of whom, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Andrew Clark

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 nursery.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the nursery.
- The manager discussed the leadership and management of the nursery with the inspector and shared relevant documents.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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