

Inspection of Explorers Childcare Ltd

Trefonen C Of E Controlled Primary School, Oswestry SY10 9DY

Inspection date: 5 July 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 Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Leaders have developed a curriculum and a range of educational programmes that help children to gain a secure foundation in their learning. They place a strong emphasis on supporting children's language acquisition. For example, leaders developed a language intervention assessment and teaching programme to focus on helping children to make accelerated progress following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaders and staff prioritise getting to know the children and their families especially when they first start. This includes home visits to gather in-depth information about children and their home-lives. Staff know children very well and children form strong emotional attachments to them. Children enjoy the time they spend with staff. For example, they seek out staff to share a book and a cuddle with them and their friends.

Overall, staff have a clear focus in their planning to help children to understand and regulate their feelings and behaviour. Staff support children to develop their resilience to setbacks. Children develop a can-do attitude and gain good levels of independence. They persevere until they succeed with a task and find solutions to problems. Staff encourage children to develop social interaction skills and specifically plan for children who find this more challenging.

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

- Leaders' self-evaluation is a key strength and they take strategic action to continually develop the service provided and quality of education. They introduce a wide range of new initiatives and reflect on the impact these have for children. Leaders monitor staff practice effectively and feed this into the action plan for the nursery. For example, they have recently provided staff with guidance related to their use of observations to inform teaching.
- Leaders provide staff with effective training that is directly linked to their key priorities. They make good use of staff supervision to set staff individual professional development targets. A recent training focus has helped staff to precisely focus on improving children's language skills. Staff share how they feel well supported and leaders ensure their workload is manageable.
- Partnership working is strong. This includes working with parents and with other settings where children also attend. This helps to provide continuity for children's care and learning. Leaders and staff engage parents successfully in their child's learning and they work together to support children's development. Parents appreciate the in-depth communication about their children. Parents of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) highly praise the support provided.

- An effective key person system is in place. Staff have a strong understanding of child development and use this to successfully analyse their observations of children's achievement and plan for their learning. Each child has individual learning targets and staff consider their personal play interests to inform their planning and teaching.
- The SENCo leads the staff team to provide specialised support for children with SEND. Staff are knowledgeable about how to adapt the curriculum and their teaching to support children at different stages of their development. They work closely with outside agencies to implement the individual support.
- Staff plan a variety of activities for children throughout the day. This includes large group time activities, small group time and independent play. However, the daily routine limits the opportunity for children to make decisions and lead their own play and learning. Some aspects of the daily routine are not matched precisely to the needs of all the children.
- Overall, children behave well. Leaders and staff have recently focused on helping children to link their emotions to colour. However, staff do not consistently set clear expectations for children to fully support their listening and attention skills.
- Staff recognise how to deploy themselves so that children's learning is enhanced in the different play areas indoors and outdoors. Staff join in with children's play and skilfully enhance their learning, particularly to support children's language development. They consistently praise children for their achievements which supports children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Leaders and staff support children's health well and implement effective procedures to promote this. This includes working in partnership with parents, such as to provide healthy lunch boxes. Leaders provide parents with a wide range of guidance and signpost them to the various local services to support children's health and well-being.

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:

- organise daily routines that precisely reflect the needs of the children in attendance to maximise learning throughout the day
- reinforce expectations with the children so they all fully understand the rules relating to the various daily routines to fully support their concentration and attention skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY536760
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	10347083
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	2 to 11
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Explorers Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP536757
Telephone number	01691 653512
Date of previous inspection	8 August 2018

Information about this early years setting

Explorers Childcare Limited registered in 2016. The nursery operates from within the school grounds of Trefonen C Of E Controlled Primary School, Oswestry. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 5.45pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anne Dyoss

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 inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- 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.
- Children interacted with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual/registered individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 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 communication and language activity with the deputy manager and manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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