

Inspection of Minitots Daycare

Minitots Daycare Ltd, St Marys Crescent, Staines Upon Thames TW19 7HU

Inspection date: 15 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

Children arrive happy at nursery and separate from their parents and carers with confidence. Staff use simple sign language and pictures to support children's communication and understanding. Staff deployment is effective. Children are generally supervised well. However, on occasions, the lunchtime routine in the pre-school room provides less support for some children.

Staff help children to learn how to express their emotions, such as learning new words to help them describe how they are feeling. Staff provide opportunities for children to make marks on different surfaces. Older children colour in pictures of their school uniform while staff talk to them about their move to 'big school'. Parents confirm how well staff support children's emotional well-being and help them to manage and regulate their behaviour.

Staff prepare children well for transitions to the next stage of their learning. Children become familiar with sitting in small groups, and they learn the names of their friends and the days of the week. Staff introduce stories such as 'The Playground is like the Jungle'. Children become independent through their daily routines. For instance, they take their empty plates to place in the box for washing. Staff liaise with other schools when children are moving to Reception to help with the transition. However, the partnerships with other settings that children attend are less well developed.

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

- The management team provides staff with regular supervision. It monitors staff practice and identifies training needs. Staff confirm that they feel well supported. The management team has recently focused on improving the staff's knowledge of safeguarding procedures. This has ensured that staff understand how to keep children safe. The setting works with the local authority to improve its practice and develop the service. Additional funding is used effectively to provide cooked meals for these children and enable them to attend extra sessions.
- Staff plan a varied curriculum where children can learn both inside and outside. They find out what children are interested in and use this to plan and provide a range of activities that support all areas of the curriculum. Staff identify what children need to learn, which is specific for each age group. For the youngest children, they focus on building the relationship with the child and their family, their physical skills and communication. For older children, staff support children in extending their speech and language, social and self-help skills and provide opportunities to strengthen their physical development.
- Children demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. There are good levels of engagement between staff and children. Staff support children in their play,

describing what they are doing and asking them simple questions such as how they can make the water go through the funnel and down the pipe. However, on occasions, there is less challenge provided for most-able children.

- Children follow simple rules throughout the day. They know they wash their hands before they eat their food. When they hear staff sing a certain song, they know it is time for circle time and rush to take their seat in the circle. Staff use positive praise to encourage children when they do well, such as 'good job', and children reciprocate the praise when staff reset the train track for them.
- Children's communication and language are supported well. Staff read stories and sing songs throughout the day. Children become familiar with stories. They love, for instance, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They retell the story using the pictures as prompts and learn new vocabulary such as 'swishy'. Children with additional needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language and funded children are well supported. They love 'bucket time' and focus for long periods while staff produce interesting items to maintain their attention and encourage them to listen and concentrate.
- Parents comment their children are happy to come to the setting. They feel well supported by the staff, for instance to complete school applications. Parents confirm they can see the progress their child has made since starting. Staff update parents on their child's day when they collect them from the setting and online about the events throughout the years and the activities the children take part in.

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:

- enhance the planning of activities to identify how learning can be adapted to provide further challenge for most-able children
- review the organisation of lunchtime to ensure that staff focus on providing the necessary support children need
- extend partnerships with other settings that children attend to share information about their development and how their learning is being supported.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY499177
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10351022
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Minitots Day Care Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900744
Telephone number	01784259100
Date of previous inspection	27 September 2018

Information about this early years setting

Minitots Daycare opened in 2006 and re-registered in 2016. The nursery operates from two purpose-built buildings located in the grounds of Town Farm Primary School, in Stanwell. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It also offers out-of-school care. The nursery provides funded free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 16 staff, of whom nine hold an early years qualification at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Maria Conroy

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery 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 manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- 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 joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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