

Inspection of My Sunflowers Day Nursery Ltd

Spartans R F C, 79a, Sebert Street, Gloucester GL1 3BS

Inspection date: 11 November 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children receive a warm welcome from the friendly, caring staff. They show that they are settled and happy. Staff respond sensitively to children's needs. Babies gain confidence to explore, investigate and develop their physical skills, knowing staff are close by to offer reassuring cuddles as needed. Staff successfully plan and implement a curriculum that helps children of all ages make good progress in their learning from their individual starting points. They receive good support to develop confident communication skills. Staff provide a narrative for babies' play and use songs and rhymes effectively to introduce sounds and words. They respond quickly to nonverbal communication to ensure that children's individual needs are met. Older children hold conversations, ask questions and recall past experiences.

Children preparing to move on to school gain the skills they need. They are confident, motivated to learn and independent. Staff encourage children to become independent from a young age. For example, children aged two years find their drinks bottles, collect aprons for art activities and help to tidy away resources. Children learn to play cooperatively and are well behaved. They learn to wait patiently to take turns and follow adults' instructions. For example, children line up, know to hold the hand rail as they descend the stairs and walk safely to the garden area.

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

- The management team and staff are all enthusiastic in their roles. They are positive role models, and they foster children's self-esteem well, encouraging children to take pride in their achievements.
- Management work closely with staff and foster team spirit. They implement effective induction procedures and provide good access to training. They complete regular supervision and monitor staff practice. They ably identify strengths in practice. However, they lack confidence in identifying weaknesses to help target professional development to raise the quality of teaching further.
- Key persons assess children's progress and identify gaps in their learning well. Staff in each of the nursery groups have a good awareness of children's individual needs, likes and dislikes. They interact with the children well to ensure that children have positive learning experiences. However, staff do not always use what they know about children's learning needs to challenge children as they go about their self-chosen play. For example, staff say they want older pre-school children to learn to recognise numerals but do not actively promote this when children show interest in number lines displayed outdoors.
- Children benefit from time spent outdoors. They explore the inviting outdoor play space with confidence and independence. They develop their small and large muscles as they use balance bikes, climb and take their 'babies for walks',

pushing dolls' buggies. Staff provide many opportunities for children to chalk and colour. Children practise their early writing skills and give meaning to the marks they make.

- Children gain understanding of the world through some carefully planned topical activities. For example, they learn about people that help us, such as during a visit to the local hospital where they recall seeing ambulances taking poorly people to hospital. Additionally, children learn about Remembrance Day. Babies enjoy the sensory experience as they create handprint poppies. Two-year-olds search for hidden poppies in coloured rice, while older children join in the two-minute silence. The children have diverse cultural backgrounds, but staff do not actively help children to gain greater understanding of cultures, families and communities beyond their own.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Parents give high praise for the support they and their children receive from the staff team. They feel extremely well informed about their children's learning. They enjoy partaking in family activities suggested by staff to extend children's learning at home. For example, they had fun collecting leaves during autumn walks and talked about seasonal changes. Parents like to see photos of their children's activities and appreciate daily feedback from staff.
- Staff work proactively to develop partnerships with other settings children attend. They promote a two-way communication to ensure that their provision enhances the experiences children have elsewhere.

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 and coach staff more effectively to raise the quality of teaching to enhance children's learning and development
- provide pre-school children with greater challenge during self-chosen play to effectively build on what they already know and can do
- help children to develop an understanding of other cultures, families and communities beyond their own.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY541161
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10367454
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	My Sunflowers Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP541160
Telephone number	01452 699150
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2019

Information about this early years setting

My Sunflowers Day Nursery Ltd registered in November 2016. It operates in Gloucester city centre. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, except for one week at Christmas. There are 12 members of staff, and seven hold childcare qualifications at level 3 and one has a level 2 qualification. Four staff hold a level 1 qualification. The nursery offers the government funded places for childcare and receives specific funding for disadvantaged children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Linda Witts

Inspection activities

- One of the deputy managers and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and the children in each age group room and outdoor play.
- The inspector and deputy manager carried out a joint observation of a creative activity.
- The inspector spoke to the manager about the leadership and management of the nursery.
- 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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