

Inspection of Happy Kids Newbury Ltd

Winchcombe School, Maple Crescent, Newbury RG14 1LN

Inspection date: 27 November 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	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Leaders and staff show a relentless determination to provide the very best start to children's journey into education. They create an inclusive, calm and caring environment where children's emotional well-being is fostered to a high level. Children snuggle up on cosy chairs for story time. They listen with wonder to stories, songs and rhymes, showing a keenness to join in. Staff support children to manage risks for themselves in the well-resourced garden area. Children show great care as they practise new skills, such as balancing and climbing.

Staff's support for children's individual learning is strong. Activities are accessible and engaging and meet all children's needs very well, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff present information to children in an order that very successfully builds on what children already know. They expertly address gaps in children's learning during activities and precisely match their support to meet children's learning needs. Children quickly become independent, resilient learners with an excellent overall attitude to learning.

Staff act as exceptional role models and expectations for behaviour are high. Children behave very well. They share and take turns and learn to understand the importance of being kind to their friends. Children show great determination and persevere when they encounter a challenge in their play. They do not give up easily. Children are happy and safe, and they gain a wide range of skills in readiness for school.

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

- Leaders hold effective oversight of the quality of the curriculum, which is ambitious, and they very accurately identify priorities for children's learning. They regularly take time to discuss what each child has been learning and use this information well to identify any additional help that children might need. Leaders ensure that curriculum priorities are well understood and delivered consistently by all staff. Children receive good support and achieve well.
- Leaders have a detailed and accurate understanding of the setting's strengths and the areas they want to improve even further. Staff are well trained and knowledgeable about early education. Those staff who undertake key roles are experts in their specialism and present as strong role models for other staff. Comprehensive training has helped staff to develop their teaching and they receive precise feedback and training to develop further. Staff feel well supported by leaders. Their views are taken into account and their workload and well-being are given high regard.
- Leaders have high expectations for children's personal development. They ensure children's thoughts and ideas are valued and acted on. For example,

children vote for their favourite story. They learn first hand that sometimes their choice might not be chosen and show a mature understanding of the reasons for this. Staff place good attention on supporting children's health. They create calming spaces for children to manage their emotions in the event that they feel overwhelmed.

- Leaders and staff broaden children's understanding of the wider community and the world in which they live. They support children's curiosity in learning new information to support their understanding of the baby hedgehog they have recently rescued. Staff successfully support children's interests through regular updates from the hedgehog charity and through supporting children's excitement around other wildlife in the area. Children show an impressive knowledge of the food that hoglets eat. Their love of nature is further supplemented as staff support children to learn about planting and growth. Staff have identified further plans to support children's understanding of making healthy choices, such as through growing fruits and vegetables.
- Leaders and staff effectively support children's communication and literacy skills. Children benefit from new vocabulary that is expertly modelled to them by the staff, who introduce this seamlessly as children play and explore. Makaton is used well to support all children, including those with SEND, to become strong communicators. Most children share their ideas articulately and are supported to listen when adults and other children are speaking. However, some children are not as confident as their friends to speak up in group situations or join in busy activities.
- Leaders and staff develop strong, purposeful partnerships with parents, carers and other provisions that children attend. This is also reflected in the effective partnerships established with professionals and leaders from local schools. Staff gather and use information well to plan experiences that reflect children's sense of identity outside of the setting and that complement what children learn elsewhere. Parents speak highly of staff and feel included in their children's learning. For example, some families are using Makaton at home as a result of staff sharing the sign of the week.

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:

- focus more precisely on the support given to quieter and less-confident children so they are able to better access the full range of activities on offer.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497419
Local authority	West Berkshire
Inspection number	10333715
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 4
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Happy Kids Newbury Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901736
Telephone number	01635 45879
Date of previous inspection	30 January 2024

Information about this early years setting

Happy Kids Newbury Ltd opened in 2004 and re-registered in 2016 as a limited company. It operates from a purpose-built building located in Winchcombe School grounds in Newbury, Berkshire. The setting is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. It offers a wrap-around care service that includes drop off from 8am and extended hours until 4.30pm. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years, and employs eight staff. The manager holds a level 6 qualification and the deputy manager holds a level 6 qualification with early years teacher status. Three members of staff hold early years qualifications at level 3, one is an apprentice and one is unqualified.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Melissa Cox

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the setting and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises with the manager.
- The deputy manager and inspector carried out a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- 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 and manager carried out a joint observation of group activities.
- The inspector talked to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

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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