

Inspection of The Treehouse Club

The Great Totham Village Hall, 1 Maldon Road, Maldon CM9 8NH

Inspection date: 13 January 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children and parents are greeted at the gate to the outdoor play area by happy, smiling staff. They are on hand to welcome the children and speak to parents about how their children have been and anything they need to know for that day.

Children give a cheery wave or hug to their parents and quickly engage in outdoor play and learning, selecting from the range of resources and activities presented for them. Staff present the resources in an interesting way to help to capture their interests. They plan an ambitious curriculum, both indoors and outdoors, based on what they know about the children's interests, likes and dislikes. Staff use the circle session at the beginning of the day to welcome the children to pre-school and explain the activities available for them to enjoy.

Children are well behaved and show respect for each other. They use good manners when asking other children or staff questions and take turns to use the resources. Staff provide children with clear instructions, such as when they ask them to help to tidy some of the toys away in preparation for snack or lunch. Children confidently tell staff about the pre-school rules. They know to use 'kind hands' and indoor voices and that they do not go up the steps to the stage area.

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

- This is the first inspection of this pre-school under the current ownership. The provider has a strong and secure senior leadership team, who oversee the linked provisions and support the individual setting managers in their day-to-day operations. Staff well-being is given high priority by the provider to help staff to feel valued and respected. The provider has clear plans moving forward, which include a focus on staff training and development in 2025.
- Parents speak highly of the pre-school and state that their children really enjoy attending. They are complimentary about the friendliness of the staff and managers and how well they feel their children are cared for. When recommending the pre-school to other parents, many say that they like the fact that children receive lots of outdoor learning. The management team work with parents and carers to find ways to ensure that they feel involved and included in the pre-school.
- Children have good relationships with the staff. Older children chat confidently to them and enjoy the interactions they receive from staff. Younger babies receive comfort and cuddles to help them to feel secure. Staff in the baby area spend much of their time sitting on the floor with the babies encouraging them to explore the selection of resources available to them.
- Children enjoy playing with construction materials. They build towers and walls. Staff are on hand to support this play, encouraging children to extend their thinking by talking about what they have built, how many bricks they have used

and what kind of structure they are building.

- Staff follow children's interests when setting out the resources each day. They know that the current cohort of children enjoy small-world play, so frequently present a selection of small-world resources in an interesting way to capture the children's interests.
- Children's understanding of the world is effectively promoted as staff make good use of the local environment. They take children on walks to the local park, church and other places of interest. Where possible, the provider brings people into the pre-school to further enhance the children's learning.
- Children are able to vote for which book they would like staff to read them. Most children listen attentively to stories. However, large-group activities, such as the group story time, do not always capture the interests of younger children or those who struggle to engage in larger groups. While staff recognise this, they do not plan well enough to ensure that these activities are engaging for all children.
- At times, staff do not enable children to fully develop their independence. They complete tasks for them before allowing them to have a go or try different ways of achieving their chosen activity.

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:

- review the effectiveness of large-group activities, especially for the younger or less engaged children, to ensure they benefit from the learning on offer
- guide staff to consider ways to further develop children's independence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2701779
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10367754
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	The Tree House Premier Child Care Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532829
Telephone number	01277 402018
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Treehouse Club registered in 2022. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, all seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8am until 4pm for babies and 9.30 until 3.30 for the pre-school. The pre-school provides government funded early years education for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- 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 about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to the nominated individual and the finance manager about the leadership and management of the pre-school.
- 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 an activity with the manager.
- Parents and carers shared their views of the pre-school with the inspector.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025