

Inspection of Kids Planet Knowsley Safari

Knowsley Safari Park, Knowsley Park, Prescot L34 4AN

Inspection date: 20 May 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 settle quickly and have formed close bonds with their key person. Babies delight in staff building towers of blocks with them, which they quickly knock down. Children benefit from playing outdoors, where staff support them in developing their physical skills on the balancing equipment. Older children take pleasure in sharing songs and stories with staff. Staff encourage storytelling using props, small-world figures and role play to help extend children's ideas and interests. Children benefit from visits to the safari park, where they experience the animals in their natural habitats, explore the nature trail and watch the animal shows. The outdoor classroom provides an array of learning, such as growing plants and exploring nature, which promotes children's knowledge of the outdoor environment.

Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. They instil good routines and boundaries to help children know what to expect, and they promote good manners and politeness when communicating with adults and their peers. Staff teach children about democracy by encouraging them to vote for their favourite stories to read at circle time. Staff sit with children at mealtimes, where they engage in conversations and promote independence in preparation for moving to the tepee or to school nursery. Children learn to pour their own drinks and to self-serve their food. Children have the opportunity to practise their developing skills at 'cooking club' where they make milk shakes and pizzas.

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

- Providers swiftly identify any breaches to requirements and take immediate action to mitigate potential risks. For example, staff monitor and re-evaluate risk assessments and policies to ensure that they meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and keep children safe. Providers ensure that any new policies and procedures are shared with staff and parents and immediately implemented. This ensures that children are kept safe.
- Leaders have a clear intent for their curriculum. Staff plan and have a clear intent for adult-led activities. They know what they want children to learn to support their needs. However, opportunities for child-led learning do not always support children's interests and the next steps in their learning. As such, children may not have opportunities to practise and build on what they know and can do.
- Staff narrate children's play and ask questions, which helps to extend their learning further. However, staff do not always remove dummies when encouraging younger children to talk. As such, younger children are not always given the opportunity to practise their growing vocabulary.
- Staff support children with transitions, such as on entry to the setting or when moving rooms. They show children how to deal effectively with their feelings, emotions and emotional regulation. This helps children to develop a healthy

attitude to emotions and feelings and to understand the effect their behaviours may have on others.

- Provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is effective. Staff work closely with other professionals to ensure that any plans are implemented to help children to make progress towards their individual goals. As such, all children make progress, regardless of their needs and abilities.
- Parents are happy with the care their children receive. They feel the nursery is supportive and accommodating of their needs and those of their children. Staff keep parents fully informed and involved in their child's learning, with regular updates and meetings. This helps to ensure a consistent approach to learning and development.
- Staff attend mandatory training, such as paediatric first aid and safeguarding, as part of their induction. Through a robust programme of training and supervision, staff are supported to continue their professional development by identifying their skills and areas for improvement. This helps staff to identify their own training needs and work to improve their teaching and learning to a high quality.
- Leaders promote the well-being of staff and a healthy work-life balance. They offer incentives, celebrate their work and achievements and offer support where needed. This empowers staff to have a positive attitude to work, which enhances their interactions and care with the children.

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:

- ensure that the intent for child-led learning is clear, supports children's interests and helps them to build on what they already know
- enhance further the promotion of speech and language by limiting the use of dummies to enable children to respond more easily and use their increasing vocabulary.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2750674
Local authority	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Inspection number	10400338
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	84
Number of children on roll	151
Name of registered person	Kids Planet Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900964
Telephone number	0151 426 6017
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Kids Planet Knowsley Safari registered in 2023. The nursery opens from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays. It provides funded early education for children. The setting employs 29 members of childcare staff. Of whom, 14 staff hold relevant qualifications at level 3 or above and five staff hold a qualification at level 2.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Highcock

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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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