

Inspection of Royal Village Nursery

Royal Village Day Nursery, David's House, Alexandra Road, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1HD

Inspection date: 1 July 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 Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy attending this nurturing and welcoming nursery. They settle well and form strong attachments to staff. Children are happy to see their key person and go to them for cuddles and reassurance. Children gain high levels of independence. Even the youngest of children learn to offer plates to their peers and feed themselves. Older children independently use the toilet and pour their own drinks, serve themselves dinner and confidently use cutlery. Children are very familiar with the routines. Staff skilfully create songs to help children handle transitions and feel safe and secure. For example, when tidying up, children sing 'five more minutes and then we tidy up'. Children's physical development is well supported. They experience a range of activities to promote their physical and emotional well-being. Children enjoy balancing on beams, climbing large soft-play equipment and regular yoga sessions.

Children enjoy pretend play. They learn social skills and develop their understanding of the world around them. Staff involve themselves in children's play to further build on what they already know and can do. Children thoroughly enjoy sitting with staff and pretending to be the 'doll' while they sing 'Miss Polly had a dolly'. They develop their understanding of what it means to be sick and visit the doctor. Children learn patience and develop their listening and attention skills. They excitedly sit and listen to stories. Staff ask questions that promote children's critical thinking skills and encourage them to recall stories. Babies develop excellent communication skills. Staff are skilled in supporting the youngest of children to communicate their needs. They use sign language well to aid communication. Staff respond to babies' babbles and sing songs. They add new words, such as 'scoop', and role model how to make animal sounds. Children follow good hygiene procedures. They understand the importance of washing their hands before eating.

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

- The provider knows the nursery well and provides a wealth of support for staff well-being. They are highly visible, approachable and actively involved in the daily life of the nursery. The provider is regularly seen working alongside the staff team. Staff comment how 'hands on' the provider is and how much they appreciate this, and how valued they feel.
- The provider creates a clear and ambitious curriculum that supports children's development across all areas of learning. The provider takes time to reflect on areas for improvement and acts promptly to implement more effective procedures.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff get to know families well and provide a wide range of support for their well-being and safety. Families value the regular updates about their children's day and developmental progress.

- Staff support children to make good progress. They get to know children's interests and level of development well. Staff plan activities that meet children's individual needs. However, in group activities, staff are less confident and do not consistently extend children's learning to enable them to make even better progress.
- Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including the move to school. Children develop good listening skills. They learn how to care for each other and become aware of how their actions can have an impact on others. Staff set clear, age-appropriate boundaries. Children are well behaved and know what is expected of them. They learn to share, take turns and be kind to each other.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well. Staff identify their needs and provide tailored learning. They work with outside professionals to refine support plans to further benefit the children. Consequently, all children make good progress.
- Leaders monitor staff practice effectively. They meet with staff regularly and set targets for them to achieve. Staff are provided with a wide range of training opportunities to progress in their professional development and to better support the children they care for.
- Risk assessments are effective. The provider is quick to review any accidents or incidents and promptly makes changes to ensure the environment remains safe. Staff have a secure understanding of how to maintain safety within the nursery and on outings. They help support children to learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, children learn the importance of holding onto the handrail when walking up the stairs.

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:

- build on the training programme for staff to enable them to enhance their confidence and skills to provide further challenge during group activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY368543
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10396509
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	100
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Village Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527699
Telephone number	01702 435435
Date of previous inspection	18 February 2020

Information about this early years setting

Royal Village Nursery registered in 2008 and is one of two settings owned by a limited company located in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides government funded places for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Daniella Adams

Inspection activities

- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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