Inspection of Hopscotch Day Nurseries (Portswood) Ltd

The Trees Nursery, 50 Westwood Road, Southampton SO17 1DP

Inspection date:	7 March 2023

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 arrive confidently at the nursery. The friendly staff greet children warmly, which helps children to feel relaxed and settle quickly. Children have developed positive relationships with staff. They understand routines and procedures. For example, older children hang up their coats and self-register attendance. Children are keen to begin their day and seek out their friends. Younger children play alongside each other peacefully. Older children greet each other enthusiastically and initiate conversation.

Children's creativity is supported well. Younger children enjoy using dough, freely choosing from a variety of materials, which they add to create different textures. They use their imagination to talk about what they have created. Children poke, squeeze and use tools to roll out the dough and manipulate it into different shapes. This helps to develop and strengthen muscles in their fingers and hands. Older children enjoy making dough. Staff encourage children to add and mix ingredients. This helps children to explore, measure and experiment.

Children are confident communicators. Young children use gesture to help staff understand their needs. For example, they pick up books and hand them to staff to read. They point to pictures on the pages. This helps to develop skills in literacy. Older children use role play to develop characters, such as shopkeepers. Staff chat to children about nutritious foods and encourage them to think of other ways to use them, such as tuning oranges into orange juice. This helps to support children's understanding of healthy lifestyles.

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

- Staff provide opportunities for children to access fresh air and exercise outdoors. Children enjoy running and experiment with moving their bodies in a variety of ways. They use gross motor movement while making marks at the water wall, reaching up high and down low. Children learn about hand hygiene and benefit from freshly cooked, nutritious meals each day. This supports their good physical development.
- Parents highly praise the nursery. They comment that they are happy with the service provided by caring, efficient staff and feel that children are well looked after. Parents provide positive feedback about 'home learning packs' and the 'book library'. They state that their children are making good progress with their learning and development.
- Staff know children well. They find out what children know and can do through settling-in sessions, talking to parents, and observations. Staff plan next steps for children's learning based on their interests. For instance, children enjoy using containers to fill and pour sand. However, not all staff provide quality

interactions with children during activities. This means that children are not always engaged in purposeful learning.

- The manager and the special educational needs coordinator work closely to identify children who require extra support. They ensure that children with special education needs and/or disabilities are able to access the support they need. Staff swiftly inform parents and make referrals to other professionals. This ensures that outcomes for children are improved further.
- Overall, children behave well. Staff praise children's efforts during routines and activities. They remind children about rules and procedures. However, not all staff are consistent in their approach to managing challenging behaviour. This means that children do not fully understand what is expected of them and, as a result, behaviour can be disruptive.
- Staff provide opportunities for children to learn and be curious. For example, children use magnifying lenses to observe plant life. They talk about what flowers need to grow and identify other creatures that rely on them, such as bees. Children investigate their local environment, looking closely at soil and twigs. They chat about what they have discovered and make connections to the weather. This supports children's understanding of the world and develops communication and language skills.
- The leadership and management team has a clear vision for ongoing improvements for the nursery. The manager organises regular meetings with staff and provides good training opportunities for them. Leaders and staff regularly reflect and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery and outcomes for children. The manager ensures that all staff feel valued and listened to. This ensures that staff well-being is high.
- Staff ensure that children develop an understanding and respect for diversity. Children enjoy learning about different festivals, such as Eid and Chinese New Year, and make connections to their friends' cultural backgrounds. This means that children appreciate and value one another.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a secure understanding of how to keep children safe from harm. This is because the manager ensures that all staff have regular safeguarding training. Staff know the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow if they are concerned about children's safety. Leaders are experienced in working with outside agencies to protect children. Recruitment procedures are robust. The owner and the manager ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children and monitor their ongoing suitability.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- strengthen staff knowledge through training to improve the quality of the interactions and extend children's learning even further
- help staff to consistently teach children the boundaries, so they develop respect for their environment, resources and each other.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2616036
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	10264511
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	76
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Hopscotch Day Nurseries (Portswood) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2616037
Telephone number	023 8067 8888
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Hopscotch Day Nurseries (Portswood) Ltd registered in 2020. It is one of eight nurseries owned by the same provider in Hampshire. This nursery is located in Portswood, Southampton. it is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. There are 14 members of staff, qualified from level 6 to level 2. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Loretta Murphy

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 group activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection 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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