

Inspection of Leigh Village Day Nursery

The Old Chapel, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SG

Inspection date: 27 January 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settled in this warm, friendly nursery. They form close bonds with staff, who are kind and nurturing. Children have easy access to a wide range of toys and interesting activities and show a very positive attitude to learning. Children are consistently encouraged to make choices about what they would like to do next. Young children decide they want to make a tower from large blocks. They concentrate well and develop good physical skills, carefully placing one block on top of another. Attentive staff are on hand to encourage and guide children should they need help.

Children relish opportunities to problem solve and persevere with tasks, helping to build resilience for future learning. For example, children in the pre-school room enjoy the challenge of rebuilding a car run that has collapsed. They show good concentration as they carefully move pieces of equipment into their correct position. Children show enormous pride in their achievement, joyfully jumping on the spot when they successfully complete this task. Children behave well. Toddlers are supported to learn how to share equipment and play cooperatively. Older children are able to resolve minor disputes and take turns using equipment, such as ride-on toys.

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

- Staff provide a curriculum that follows children's interests and builds well on what they already know and can do. Children experience a wealth of opportunities that enhance their learning. During outdoor play, toddlers enthusiastically join in 'a bear hunt'. Supported by staff, they follow instructions as they march around obstacles in their way.
- Children benefit from a language-rich environment. Staff introduce new words and correctly repeat words back to children, allowing them time to copy and build on their growing vocabulary. Staff in the baby room help them to understand words in context.
- Children are encouraged to develop a love of books. Toddlers are supported very well to engage in group story time. They listen to staff who are animated and enthusiastic as they read. Children show great interest in the props used and are keen to join in discussions about what might happen next. This interaction helps children develop a stronger understanding of the story and supports their speech and language development further.
- Occasional trips out of the setting help children to learn about their local community. For example, staff have recently started taking children on visits to a care home for older people.
- Staff teach children about staying safe. For example, toddlers learn how to carefully carry their chair to the table at snack time. Young children are given

gentle reminders about how to meet their personal hygiene needs. Older children confidently take themselves to the toilet and know they must wash their hands before leaving.

- Outdoor play provides a wide range of learning opportunities. Children are able to skilfully fit large jigsaw blocks together. They carefully walk across them, demonstrating very good balance. Younger children show pure delight as they learn how to move the weight of their body to help make a see-saw move up and down.
- Parents report that their children settled in the nursery well, are happy and making good progress. They say that staff are supportive, build fantastic bonds with the children and are invested in them. Parents comment they have noticed their children are more independent at home. They explain how much they enjoy the reinstated stay-and-play sessions. Parents say they have recommended the nursery to others.
- The manager and her deputy lead the nursery with a strong sense of direction. This helps motivate staff to continually improve their knowledge and skills. Staff say they feel supported by the manager and know that they can speak to her at any time.
- Parents are provided with regular information about their child's developmental progress. At collection time, staff also give feedback about children's achievements and how they have spent their time in nursery. However, they do not routinely offer further guidance or ideas about how to support and extend children's individual learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and her staff recognise the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know how to report any concerns they may have about children's welfare. Regular training opportunities help to continually refresh their knowledge and skills. The manager further promotes staff's ongoing understanding of safeguarding. For example, she holds discussions with them at team and individual supervision meetings. Robust recruitment procedures are followed to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Daily safety checks are carried out to ensure that areas accessed by children are safe and ready for use.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen opportunities for sharing ideas and activities with parents to further support and extend their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY368849
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10275876
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	68
Name of registered person	Village Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527699
Telephone number	01702 480077
Date of previous inspection	14 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Leigh Village Day Nursery registered in 2008. The nursery employs 29 members of childcare staff. Of these, 25 staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 2 or above. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6.00pm, all year round except for bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and this has been taken into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk of the nursery, inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager, and together they evaluated this.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing in the setting.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including the suitability checks of all adults working in the setting.
- Parents and staff spoke with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.

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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