

Scallywags Day Nursery

Westwick Farm, Westwick, Oakington, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB24 3AR



Inspection date

8 December 2017

Previous inspection date

17 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Highly effective monitoring of children's progress means that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and closed. Information gained from observations is relevant and precise. This is shared regularly with parents, who comment on the 'fabulous' learning their children receive.
- All staff have high expectations of children's abilities and extend on their learning throughout the day. The environment is exceptionally well resourced, maintained and managed to provide space for children to make choices and solve problems.
- Staff are highly skilled, sensitive and knowledgeable about meeting children's needs, which helps children feel emotionally secure. Children are confident communicators who show high levels of confidence in social situations. This helps them develop a positive sense of themselves.
- Behaviour is exemplary. Children's welfare and development are supported well and are highly effective in enabling children to keep themselves safe. Children talk about the rules in forest school and how these help to keep them safe.
- Staff care for babies and younger children in a highly supportive environment by staff who know them well and who genuinely care for them.
- Staff teach children new skills, enthusiastically providing them with exciting activities as they play. Staff stimulate children's curiosity and encourage them to make discoveries. Staff go above and beyond to ensure children's time at the nursery is memorable and meaningful.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the already excellent partnerships with parents, to offer even more support and guidance when needed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and considered the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager to determine her ability to monitor and improve staff practice.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff.
- The inspector met with the nominated person, the area manager, the manager and her deputy. She sampled documentation, including evidence of the suitability of those working at the nursery.

Inspector

Helen Harper

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Staff provide excellent learning opportunities in all activities across all age groups. The management team holds highly effective supervision meetings with staff, who make the most of all opportunities to develop their excellent practice. Safeguarding is effective. Extremely comprehensive safeguarding procedures are in place and understood by staff. They know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Detailed self-evaluation is accurate and sharply focused on continually improving outcomes for the children. Staff and parents are fully involved in this reflective practice. The management team has plans in place to help families who need extra support. Leaders monitor all aspects of the nursery extremely closely to maintain the already high standards.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan exciting activities that challenge all children to learn the skills they need for school or their next stage in learning. They provide innovative ways for children to learn about their environment. For example, staff show pictures of mushrooms and berries, and children talk about why we do not touch or eat these. Younger children's communication and language are strongly promoted. Staff use finger puppets to engage and support children's understanding as they sing and clap to music. Older children draw rabbits and staff discuss what facial features are needed, linking this to a discussion about children's own eyes and noses. Staff support children's mathematical development exceptionally well; for example, children explore shapes as they experiment with lengths of pipe. As they join the ends together, staff ask children what shape they have made. Staff extend this by showing and discussing with children how the circles can roll.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

All children demonstrate exemplary behaviour and understand the need to share and take turns. Children display superb coordination and physical skills. For example, they balance on a bridge they have made with planks and crates, while babies enjoy exploring different textures of pasta, rice and flour. Staff give children time to explore and use sign language to support younger children's communication. Staff expertly promote healthy lifestyles. They encourage children to eat a variety of nutritious foods and discuss how this contributes to children's good health. Children show high levels of independence. They competently serve themselves dinner and clear away their own plates and cutlery.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children concentrate and maintain their interest extremely well. They are very curious, highly motivated learners and constantly find ways to solve problems. They make creative pictures using mud outside, and babies and young children make marks in ice. Older children link initial letter sounds to pictures of animals they see as they use electronic tablets. They count, match shapes, recognise numbers and do simple calculations; for example, taking one away from five. All children are making excellent progress and gain the key skills in readiness for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY294872
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1101982
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	137
Number of children on roll	212
Name of registered person	Countryside Day Nurseries LTD.
Registered person unique reference number	RP910957
Date of previous inspection	17 February 2014
Telephone number	01223 232400

Scallywags Day Nursery registered in 1994 and is open all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, with the exception of some public holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 33 members of staff employed to work with the children, 20 of whom hold an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

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