

Inspection of Toad Hall Nursery

Edney's Hill, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 4DS

Inspection date: 2 September 2025

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 arrive happily and are keen to start their day. They enjoy their play and activities and confidently interact with staff. Staff respond with kindness to children, particularly those who need some extra support, and they provide cuddles and reassurance to babies and children. As a result, babies and children feel settled, safe and secure.

Staff have a good understanding of the curriculum and children's individual learning needs. They promote children's speech and language, such as through discussions, reading stories and singing songs. Babies and toddlers show they are learning the actions and words to familiar stories and songs. Staff are fully aware of children who may need extra help with their learning. This helps to promote all children's progress successfully. Overall, staff provide consistently good-quality interactions and support to children.

Staff implement consistent support for children's behaviour across the age groups. They remind children about the identified expectations, such as using 'kind hands'. Children listen well and cooperate with requests, including to help tidy up or to line up to go outside. They benefit from a calm environment, where they learn to play together cooperatively. For example, pre-school children create bridges for the toy train track with a variety of different resources. This helps children to experiment and test out and share their ideas with others.

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

- Leaders have addressed actions raised, including ensuring that staffing arrangements meet the qualified staff ratios. Staff use knowledge gained from behaviour management training to successfully implement positive strategies. Staff provide a good role model to children, such as being calm and using good manners. They praise children positively to help reinforce the behaviours they want to see. Leaders have a development plan to help work towards further improvements. Staff praise the support leaders provide for their well-being and practice.
- Staff understand and adapt the nursery curriculum well and take account of children's interests. This helps to ensure that the curriculum is age and stage appropriate and motivates children's learning. Staff have a good knowledge of their key children's development and what they need to learn next. They identify ways to support children's progress, such as learning signing and using flashcards to encourage communication. Children develop their concentration skills well. For example, pre-school children focus on activities with and without staff's support.
- Staff build children's confidence effectively. Children show curiosity and explore

resources with interest. For instance, babies work out how to remove model animals taped to a tray. Staff name the animals and the noises they make and encourage children to repeat these. Overall, staff promote children's learning securely. At times, staff do not fully extend their explanations to develop children's further understanding or provide more support for children's developing skills. For example, staff do not always recognise when some pre-school children struggle to use scissors correctly.

- Staff promote children's independence well. They encourage babies to learn to do things for themselves, such as wipe their own face and hands. Toddlers and older children learn to manage their clothing, pour their drinks and carry their plates to the table. Staff monitor children's well-being closely and take appropriate action when needed, such as contacting parents if a child seems unwell. Sometimes, staff do not organise routine times of the day, such as mealtimes, as well as possible. This leads to children waiting or staff not having everything they need for children to hand.
- Leaders and staff carefully manage the move between rooms to support children's emotional well-being. Parents are provided with relevant information in advance of children moving rooms. Some staff work with children in their existing room or move to the new room with children. This helps to provide a familiar face to children. Effective handovers of information ensures that staff have a good understanding of their new key children.
- Leaders' and staff's partnerships with parents and outside professionals are effective. Leaders are sensitive to the individual needs of all families. Leaders and staff work closely with parents and professionals to meet children's needs consistently. Parents speak positively about the care their children receive. They highlight staff provide regular feedback about their children, including their activities, learning and care needs. They also have access to resources, including story packs to support home learning.

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:

- develop staff's teaching skills to help them extend children's skills and knowledge further
- build on staff's organisation of routine times of the day, such as mealtimes, to manage these times more effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	148628
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10408720
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	122
Number of children on roll	149
Name of registered person	Toad Hall Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP558430
Telephone number	0118 9776200
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2023

Information about this early years setting

Toad Hall Nursery registered in December 1994. It is situated in Wokingham, Berkshire. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, except for bank holidays and the Christmas period. There is an early bird session available subject to demand from 7.45am to 8am. The provider offers the government funded places for childcare. There are currently a total of 33 staff, including bank staff who work with the children. Of whom, 21 hold relevant early years qualifications from level 2 to level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Sheena Bankier
Clare Perry

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspectors completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years foundation stage curriculum.
- Staff spoke to the inspectors during the inspection and provided information about their roles and responsibilities.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations of group activities with senior leadership staff.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspectors spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Children chatted and interacted with the inspectors during the inspection.
- A meeting was held with the manager about the leadership and management of the nursery.
- A sample of documentation was reviewed as part of the inspection process.

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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