

Inspection of Echoes Childcare Limited

Winslade House, Manor Drive, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon EX5 1FY

Inspection date:

30 May 2024 - 17 June 2024

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 feel safe and secure at the nursery. They arrive happily and settle quickly. New babies form strong bonds with their key persons, and two-year-old children sit contentedly in staff's laps when they look at books together. Staff help to build the pre-school children's sense of belonging and identity. They encourage children to talk about themselves during group times and listen to what they say with interest.

Staff are clear what they want children to learn next and take account of children's interests when planning activities and experiences. All children make good progress and develop a positive attitude to learning. Babies and toddlers are curious and they use their senses to explore their environment. They gather around the activities eagerly and use their hands and tools to scoop and transport the sensory resources. Staff model simple language skilfully while narrating the children's investigation of the textures, such as 'crunch', 'squeeze' and 'small'. Staff support the pre-school children to assess risks for themselves. The children consider how high to climb the trees and how far to jump from a platform in the garden. Children become confident in their own abilities and develop pride in their achievements.

Staff manage children's behaviour effectively. They remind the toddlers and two-year-old children to share and take turns and explain the reasons for the rules. Children play alongside and with each other cooperatively.

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

- Leaders and staff have a secure understanding of what knowledge and skills they want children to learn during their time at the nursery. They work with parents to establish what children already know and can do when they start. Staff plan and deliver a broad, ambitious and stimulating curriculum, which helps to prepare children well for the next stage in their education.
- Staff provide good support for children's physical development. They place toys and resources on the floor around the babies to motivate them to stretch and move. They encourage toddlers to scoop and pour sand using spoons. Staff prompt the pre-school children to think about what they will draw pictures of and to make marks with control.
- Staff model language skilfully and teach children new words. However, some staff do not support children consistently to speak and to practise their language skills. For example, staff ask the children simple questions but do not allow them enough time to respond before answering for them.
- With encouragement from staff, children learn to take responsibility for and manage their self-care needs independently. They use cutlery at mealtimes, and the older children help to prepare and serve snack. Children are keen to help staff. For example, they are meticulous in picking up every small piece of paper

from the floor when tidying up and the pre-school children tell staff how to clean the tables after mealtimes.

- Children develop a love of books from a young age. They often choose to sit and look at books quietly by themselves, studying the pictures and turning the pages. When staff read, children listen with interest and concentrate well.
- Overall, children follow staff's instructions and join in with planned activities enthusiastically. On occasion, the deployment of staff and their organisation of activities and routines lead to children losing focus and becoming overexcited. This distracts the children from their play and learning and they become very noisy for short times.
- Parents comment that their children make good progress in their development. They feel that staff regularly update them about what their children are learning. Parents praise the caring staff team and say their children are happy and eager to attend.
- Staff are warm, playful and friendly. For example, when babies wake from a nap, staff calmly and sensitively give them the space and time they need to get up and join their friends. Staff show respect for children, for example when asking children permission to wipe their nose. The children consent willingly, wrinkling their nose in anticipation.
- Leaders provide thorough inductions for new staff and give good consideration to promoting staff's well-being. Staff understand and carry out their roles and responsibilities to meet children's needs.

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:

- strengthen the curriculum for communication and language to develop and provide more consistent support for children's speech
- review the organisation of staff deployment, activities and routines to support children to focus and engage more deeply in their activities and daily tasks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2674659
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10339510
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	108
Name of registered person	Echoes Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP909265
Telephone number	01392 699605
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Echoes Childcare registered in 2022. The nursery operates from the site of Winslade House and Park, near Exeter in Devon. It is open from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year around. It is closed between Christmas and New Year and on bank holidays. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four. There are 28 members of staff, 15 of whom hold level 3 qualifications and five hold level 2 qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Dilys Vincent
Sarah Madge

Inspection activities

- The inspection started on 30 May 2024. Inspectors returned on 17 June 2024 to gather additional evidence in line with 'Ofsted inspections and visits: Deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence policy'.
- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager completed a learning walk of the nursery with the inspectors and discussed the early years curriculum and nursery values.
- Children communicated with the inspectors during the inspection.
- The inspectors spoke with the manager and deputy manager about the leadership and management of the nursery.
- The deputy manager carried out joint observations with the inspectors to reflect on the quality of teaching and learning.
- An inspector spoke with parents and took account of their written feedback during the inspection.
- The manager provided documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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