

Inspection of Hillside House Nursery

Hillside House, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, SHREWSBURY SY3 0AU

Inspection date:

30 April 2025

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Since the last inspection, there have been significant changes to the leadership team, as well as the staff teams within the rooms. While leaders have worked hard to maintain ratios, there has been some impact on the quality of teaching and learning for children. However, children enjoy their time at this warm and welcoming nursery.

Staff happily welcome children into nursery and, as a result, they separate with ease from their parents. Babies and young children seek out familiar adults for cuddles and reassurance, which helps them settle quickly. Older children become engrossed in their favourite play activities with their friends. Children behave very well and follow the nursery routines with confidence. They are kind to their friends and play well together. For example, a group of children work well together to build a den with large bricks. They take turns to be the shopkeeper in their outside shop.

Staff organise a range of interesting resources and activities for children designed to support all areas of learning. Children happily explore these as they play. For example, they use coloured chalks to write letters and numbers on wooden disks in the garden. They persevere as they work out how to use the tap on the water jug to pour themselves a drink.

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

- Leaders acknowledge that the changes in staffing have had an impact on the quality of teaching and learning for children. They recognise where there is very strong practice and where there needs to be some sharply focused improvement. They have started to identify the steps they need to take to help improve the quality of the provision for children. However, this is still in the very early stages and has not yet begun to have an impact.
- Leaders have a clear vision for what they want children to learn. There is an ambitious curriculum in place, which focuses on building skills and knowledge over time. However, because of inconsistencies in staffing, the delivery of the curriculum is not yet fully embedded in all rooms.
- Leaders are passionate about supporting the well-being of the staff team. They meet regularly with them to discuss any issues and concerns, and to highlight training needs. Staff have access to a wide range of professional development opportunities through an online training platform. Team meetings also provide opportunities for in-house training and development. For example, safeguarding updates are discussed so that staff's knowledge remains up to date.
- Staff who have been at the setting for some time know the children well. They can explain where children are in their development and what the focus is to support their progress. However, staff do not always promptly recognise when

children may need additional support. As a result, intervention is not always in place early enough to help close gaps in children's progress.

- Parents know who their child's key person is because they talk with them every day. They keep them informed about their child's development and ways they can support their child at home. However, key-person responsibilities sometimes rely too heavily on a small number of key staff.
- Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. Leaders employ a cook who prepares food fresh every day and who makes sure the menu is balanced. Any allergies or dietary requirements are accommodated with care and attention.
- Babies receive warm, affectionate care from staff who know them very well. They explore a wide range of resources and activities, which encourage sensory experiences. Knowledgeable and skilled staff support babies to develop their early communication skills. For example, they speak clearly, comment on what they are doing, encourage babies' sounds and use simple words during interactions with them.
- Children enjoy exploring the extensive outdoor garden areas. They observe little blossom petals falling from the tree in the wind, carefully picking them up for a closer look. They challenge themselves to climb up and balance on the large wooden climbing frame. Staff help them understand fast and slow as they swing around on the tyre rope swing. They run around happily, playing hide and seek games and chasing their friends.

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 meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
ensure all staff have appropriate training, skills and knowledge to deliver a rich and varied curriculum, to improve the overall quality of teaching for children to support all children to make good progress.	30/11/2025

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

- strengthen staff's knowledge of how to quickly identify significant gaps in children's learning, and how to seek additional support promptly
- assist staff to fulfil their role as a key person successfully to ensure that all children receive consistent and effective support.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY104253
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	10401961
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	90
Number of children on roll	161
Name of registered person	Hillside House Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP909881
Telephone number	01743872203
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2020

Information about this early years setting

Hillside House Nursery registered in 2015. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold early years qualifications at level 6, four at level 3 and five at level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and a week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.45am to 6pm. The nursery provides government funded early education for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Juliette Freeman

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The deputy manager, manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children told the inspector about what they like to do when they are at nursery.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with managers about the leadership and management of the nursery.
- 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 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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