

Inspection of Fisherfield Childcare

Fisherfield Childcare, Parliament Street, Bury BL9 0TE

Inspection date: 12 August 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

Staff and leaders have a secure understanding of how young children learn. Staff create an enriching environment, and children show delight as they explore and investigate. Children access a sensory room adorned with lights and materials, which helps to promote younger children's exploration, awe and wonder. Staff prepare entertaining and challenging games and activities. Children remain continually busy and occupied through a fun programme of play. Children enjoy experiments such as predicting what will happen when colours are mixed. They enthusiastically shout, 'Red and blue make purple!' This challenging task helps children to develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Children enjoy planting seeds in the outdoor garden, and they learn about nature and the world around them. Staff deliver yoga sessions, contributing to children's excellent balance and core physical strength. The rich range of interesting activities support children's good all-round progress.

Children enjoy undertaking small responsibilities. They take pride in being helpful and completing small tasks for themselves. For example, children serve and feed themselves at lunchtime with confidence. They proudly take turns to look after the nursery bear and talk about the adventures they have enjoyed. Children are well supported to become independent and responsible. Children behave well because they know what is expected of them. Staff are consistent and fair in their interactions, and boundaries are well understood by everyone. Children attending this nursery are happy, safe and supported to flourish.

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

- Leaders plan a curriculum with a clear ethos, creating a secure foundation for teaching and learning. They intend for children to be independent, confident and resilient. These are the cornerstones for all staff's quality interactions and teaching. Staff deliver this curriculum intent with confidence.
- Staff foster children's literacy skills very well. A 'book of the week' is enjoyed by children, and staff use this book as a consistent theme to plan a variety of activities. Staff read to children in an animated way, and children delight in discussing the illustrations and characters. Roles then reverse, and children read to staff, enabling them to explore and develop their early reading skills. Children develop a love of books.
- Leaders prioritise staff well-being. For instance, a 'staff buddy system' helps to ensure everyone enjoys peer support. Staff are happy and motivated, and this high morale contributes to their dedication and high standards.
- Parents hold staff accountable and have high expectations for the quality of care their children receive. Staff work hard and successfully meet these expectations. Parents comment that staff excel in their communication and are conscientious

to share regular and detailed updates about children's progress. Partnerships with parents are strongly based on a secure foundation of mutual respect.

- Leaders and staff work with a wide range of professionals, such as speech therapists and health visitors, to meet children's unique needs. This is an inclusive setting where all children are supported to flourish.
- Staff help children to learn about the diverse world in which they live. For instance, children help to collect food for the local food bank to help families less fortunate than themselves. This helps to promote children's knowledge of the world and extends their empathy and respect.
- Children learn how to look after themselves, and these key skills are a springboard for children's healthy lifestyles. For instance, staff teach children and parents about the importance of oral hygiene and how to look after developing teeth. Children are encouraged to try unfamiliar and new foods at lunchtime, extending their positive attitudes to healthy eating. Staff excel in promoting children's good health.
- Staff complete frequent observations of children, and their knowledge of what children can do is accurate and continually updated. However, staff do not always use their good knowledge to focus their teaching precisely where children have gaps and would benefit from additional support.
- Staff are enthusiastic and energetic teachers. However, occasionally, staff do not manage group times with the greatest effectiveness or efficiency to ensure all children benefit from the quality teaching available. For instance, sometimes children are left waiting during group tasks, and they become restless and lose concentration.

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:

- support staff to make better use of assessment to focus their interactions precisely on what children need to learn next
- ensure group times are organised to enable all children to fully participate and benefit from the quality teaching available.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY281471
Local authority	Bury
Inspection number	10398836
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	58
Number of children on roll	71
Name of registered person	Fisherfield Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP518736
Telephone number	0161 705 2233
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

Fisherfield Childcare registered in 2004 and is one of seven nurseries owned and managed by the same company. The nursery operates from within a purpose-built building in the grounds of Bury College. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate qualifications at levels 2 or 3. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays and one week during the Christmas period. The nursery provides government-funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk. They discussed the curriculum design and what leaders intend for children to learn.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views and experiences of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector sampled a range of key documentation, including suitability checks for all staff.
- The deputy manager and inspector completed a joint observation.

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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