

Inspection of Kaleidoscope Day Nursery

Sherborne Business Centre, East Mill Lane, SHERBORNE, Dorset DT9 3DR

Inspection date: 23 August 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are settled, happy and feel safe at this nursery. Staff greet children warmly and with enthusiasm at the start of their day. Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, parents do not enter the nursery in the usual way. Children have adapted to the new routine well and cheerfully wave goodbye to their parents as staff collect them.

Children develop positive and trusting relationships with staff. They benefit from having a regular key-person and buddy system to provide consistency in their care and learning. Staff are sensitive and responsive to children's needs. For instance, they provide a nurturing environment and offer lots of cuddles to babies as they settle into the nursery routines. Staff place a strong focus on supporting children's social and self-control skills. Children are beginning to manage their behaviour and learn to take turns and play cooperatively with their friends. If a gentle reminder is needed, staff use a turtle hand puppet to help children understand and manage their feelings in a calm way.

Staff provide exciting spaces to play, such as the well-equipped sensory room. Younger children jump with glee on lights on the interactive floor board, and older children demonstrate good coordination skills as they stretch and make balancing shapes with their bodies.

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

- The management team is passionate and ambitious about providing quality care and education for all children. The team monitors the educational programmes accurately and seeks feedback from parents, children and staff to help identify and target areas to develop. Staff in each room evaluate their practice and introduce ideas to improve outcomes for children. For example, staff in the toddler room added an interactive number line to help develop children's mathematical skills further.
- Staff plan stimulating experiences to support children's development that are based around children's interests and what they already know and can do. Staff gain detailed information from parents and observe children closely to understand individual learning needs. They use this information well to plan for what children need to learn next. Funding is used effectively to support children's individual interests and learning requirements and to close any gaps in learning.
- Staff make communication and language development a priority and, following on from training, have increased their skills in this area. They interact with children skilfully, and actively support them in developing their vocabulary and understanding. For instance, staff sing songs, share stories often and model

good language. Children speak confidently and with increasing fluency as they get older.

- Children are confident and have good levels of independence. They are eager to take part in tasks, such as putting their plates away and stacking their cups. Babies feed themselves with spoons and toddlers pour their own drinks. Staff provide healthy and nutritious meals.
- Staff plan activities that help children to develop their physical skills well. For example, babies practise how to balance their bodies as they cruise around large, soft shapes. Older children run as fast as they can as they participate in egg and spoon races.
- Children enjoy making choices in their play and are motivated to learn. For instance, younger children thoroughly enjoy smearing paint on their hands and seeing the results as they excitedly pat their hands on paper. However, on occasion, some staff do not consistently hold all children's attention or help them to engage fully during group activities.
- Staff regularly share information in accessible ways to parents. Parents speak highly of the support their children receive and feel well informed. Staff forge strong links with other professionals and settings to secure the best possible support for children. They work closely with teachers to prepare children well for starting school. This helps to ensure continuity in children's care and learning. All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in relation to their individual starting points.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team and staff demonstrate a secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They recognise the signs and symptoms that might alert them to a child being harmed or mistreated. These include wider safeguarding issues, such as radicalisation. Staff keep their knowledge up to date, for example through regularly attending training. The management team uses robust recruitment procedures to ensure those caring for children are suitable to do so. Staff complete daily checks and risk assessments to ensure that the environment is safe for children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- help children to concentrate and engage fully during all group activities, to support their learning and development even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411243
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10125866
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	148
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Kaleidoscope Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529825
Telephone number	01935812424
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2013

Information about this early years setting

Kaleidoscope Day Nursery registered in 2010. It is a privately owned nursery, situated in a business park in the town of Sherborne, Dorset. The nursery is open weekdays from 8am to 5.30pm, all year round, except for two weeks at Christmas and on bank holidays. It employs 34 staff members who work directly with the children. Of these, the manager holds early years professional status, three members of staff hold a qualification at level 4, 18 hold a qualification at level 3, and five hold a qualification at level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Petra Morgan

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the 2020-21 COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- Two members of the management team and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with two members of the management team.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including policies and procedures, Disclosure and Barring Service records for all adults working on the premises, staff qualifications and paediatric first-aid qualifications.
- The management team, staff and children spoke to the inspector at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through verbal and written feedback.

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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