

Apples & Pears Day Nursery and The Banana OOS Club



Back Lane, Smallwood, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 2UN

Inspection date

14 April 2016

Previous inspection date

4 December 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Dynamic leadership helps to ensure the nursery continues to sustain excellent standards of care and learning. The manager instils passion, drive and commitment among the team and everyone strives to do their very best for children and parents.
- Teaching is highly effective and the outdoor learning environment is truly inspiring. The nursery is situated on a working farm which gives children many unique and exciting experiences to learn about animals and nature.
- Staff care for the children extremely well. Children's delight in being at the nursery is evident in their behaviour. Parents report that the nursery is brilliant and has really high standards that are met every day.
- Partnership working with parents and other professionals is excellent. Parents are fully involved in all aspects of their children's care and learning. This promotes a consistent approach to ensuring children's individual needs are met to a high standard.
- Staff qualification levels are high, which makes a significant difference to children's well-being and learning. Some staff are trained to coach, mentor and deliver training to staff from other settings, as well as their own.
- Staff are very thoughtful and sensitive to new parents who leave their baby at nursery for the first time. For example, they give parents a comforter pack that contains soothing items and some reassuring words to ease their worries.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to find new and inspiring ways for children to enjoy even more sensory exploration with a range of media and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the provider's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jan Linsdell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff thoroughly understand their role in keeping children safe from harm. All staff keep safeguarding practice cards on their person, so they can respond quickly to different scenarios about children's welfare. Supervision and monitoring of staff performance are extremely effective. For example, the manager conducts video observations of staff delivering activities which they watch and evaluate together. Self-evaluation is meticulous and targeted action plans lead to ongoing improvements. Rigorous analysis of children's development means the manager has a comprehensive overview of the progress children make. This helps to ensure any gaps are promptly addressed. The manager knows staff can do even more to offer children continuous sensory opportunities, both indoors and outside.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are involved in research projects, such as early language programmes and sharing quality. They undertake audits on different aspects of practice which helps to promote the best teaching and learning experiences for the children. Interactions between staff and children are extremely effective and contribute to accelerating children's learning. Staff use a comprehensive system to accurately assess children's development and plan for their next steps in learning. Parents can also access this system, which means they receive continual updates on their child's progress. Staff assess the skills of pre-school children to check they are confident and ready for school. Children thoroughly enjoy their learning. For example, babies and toddlers become absorbed in fun activities, such as exploring in paint, water and jelly. Pre-school children enthusiastically join in with memory games that support their understanding of letters and sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Parents report that the staff are very dedicated and the way they nurture the children is a key strength. Consequently, close relationships between staff, children and parents flourish. Staff offer home visits which helps them to gain a full picture of children's needs when they first start. Staff work particularly closely with parents to support the needs of children who have special educational needs or disability. They place great emphasis on outdoor play which significantly benefits children's physical health and well-being. Staff promote good behaviour really well. They teach children how to negotiate and show much appreciation when children are polite, kind and helpful to others.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make great strides in their learning and the majority of children exceed expected levels of development typical for their age. They are constantly busy and highly motivated in their play. Children delight in playing outside and it is obvious to see why. The sensory garden offers fantastic learning opportunities, where children have ample space to run, explore and play imaginatively in mud. Pre-school children immerse themselves in the huge sandpit, where they have great fun making sand angels. Children love the donkeys and benefit hugely from first-hand experiences, such as watching lambs being born or cows being milked.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY261050
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	848424
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	78
Number of children on roll	167
Name of provider	W M Evans and Partners Partnership
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2009
Telephone number	01477 500253 07709 657017

Apples & Pears Day Nursery and The Banana OOS Club was registered in 2003. The setting employs 24 members of childcare staff. Of these, 22 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including four with Early Years Professional status, Early Years Teacher status or qualified teacher status. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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