

Inspection of Little Monkeys Day Nursery

Oaklands, Braithwaite, KESWICK, Cumbria CA12 5RY

Inspection date: 15 June 2023

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Experienced leaders and highly skilled staff have developed a bespoke curriculum that details the building blocks for children's learning and development. This is implemented effectively at every level. Staff carefully consider and choose a range of resources and highly effective activities, which are organised with clear intent for all children's learning. Children display high levels of curiosity and a sense of wonder in this stimulating environment. For example, while preparing their own lunch, children instinctively fetch magnifying glasses to look at the lettuce leaves they have grown in the garden. Children say, 'We grew the lettuce from seeds,' and, 'They need water and the sun to grow, and the leaves breathe.' Children's behaviour is exemplary. They automatically help their friends and show consideration for others' needs.

All children, including children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, flourish due to staff's strong commitment to putting children at the heart of everything they do. Staff build extremely effective relationships with parents and other professionals to swiftly identify children's needs and emerging interests. This means that any tailored, nurturing support that may be required to help children to make the best progress is quickly put in place. This contributes to children being exceptionally well prepared for their future move on to school.

Children are incredibly happy, content and highly enthusiastic in this nurturing and fully inclusive nursery. They come into nursery happy to attend and are greeted by attentive, kind and caring staff, who support them to settle with ease. As a result, children quickly develop the confidence to leave their parents and carers at the door and confidently play in the enabling environment. Children demonstrate secure attachments to familiar key persons and display a strong sense of belonging throughout the nursery.

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

- The curriculum is embedded across the whole nursery. The highly skilled staff have an exceptional understanding of how children learn. As a result, children thrive, as their experiences are consistently built on, follow their interests and are tailored to their individual and specific needs. Children's attitudes to learning are strong. They confidently join in, make decisions and use enquiry, curiosity and their own theories to predict situations. Children are involved in their own learning. For instance, when a letter is received in the post, they look at the stamp, decipher the letter sounds of the country of origin and check the map to see how far away the country is. Their inquisitiveness and curiosity help children to become lifelong learners and make outstanding progress.

- Parents speak extremely highly of the nursery and the outstanding experiences that children receive. They comment that staff truly go 'above and beyond' with the support they offer. Parents comment on the incredible progress their children are making. They say that all staff are 'fantastic' and know their children well. Parents say they feel involved in their children's learning. They love the way the nursery celebrates the inclusiveness of the community and the families who attend the nursery. They enjoy being invited into the nursery to share their experiences, languages and job roles with the children.
- Children develop a love of stories, books and songs from an early age, becoming enthralled as staff bring stories to life. Babies enjoy handling puppets while singing 'Old MacDonald' and feeling and tasting different fruits after reading 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. Staff stimulate older children's curiosity as they read descriptive words with enthusiasm. Children excitedly join in and remain highly engaged and captivated throughout.
- Leadership in the nursery is inspirational. The highly qualified and experienced leaders ensure that their strong vision and clear ethos are threaded throughout the play-based curriculum. Staff benefit from the excellent training and support they receive through regular supervision and meetings. Leaders are very aware of ensuring that the well-being of staff is recognised and considered. They value the views of staff, children and parents.
- Children learn about their community and the world around them. They see diversity in activities and resources and enjoy visits from a variety of people who help them in the community. For example, mountain rescue and the police visit the nursery to help children learn how to keep themselves safe. Children enjoy animal and tractor visits with the local farmer. All of this broadens children experiences and knowledge of the world.
- Children demonstrate excellent independence. Staff value and praise children's efforts to build on their self-care skills. For example, they support potty training and encourage children to dress themselves without support. Consequently, children develop resilience and perseverance to succeed with tasks unaided. Staff are highly effective at promoting healthy lifestyles with children, including encouraging healthy eating, oral hygiene and active physical play outdoors.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff demonstrate an extensive knowledge of safeguarding and child protection. They have all the information needed to keep children and themselves safe. They are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and confidently know the processes needed to make referrals or seek professional advice. Leaders have robust recruitment procedures in place. All new staff complete a thorough induction, which includes in-depth knowledge of the nursery's safeguarding policies, procedures and safeguarding training. Leaders and staff construct a safe environment where children are encouraged to manage risks themselves, including the use of real woodworking tools and forest school activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY371284
Local authority	Cumberland
Inspection number	10280819
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	36
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Fradsham, Laura
Registered person unique reference number	RP515122
Telephone number	01768778192
Date of previous inspection	22 August 2017

Information about this early years setting

Little Monkeys Day Nursery registered in 2008. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff, of whom 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Carys Millican

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The provider joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector, including through written testimonials.

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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