

Inspection of Scallywags Nursery Chelmsford

The Pavillion, Burnell Gate, Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6ED

Inspection date: 6 December 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

Children are at the heart of this authentic and inspirational nursery. They quickly become deeply engaged in their enriching and stimulating environment. Children are incredibly confident and sociable and make informed decisions about what they would like to do with the support from expert and nurturing staff.

Children form warm and strong relationships with their key person. Staff continuously challenge children's learning and support collaborative play. They encourage children to choose between exploring a stimulating indoors provision, or accessing the outdoor space, which is set with real-life resources and activities. For example, in the outdoor classroom, children are absolutely fascinated to make their own car. They work well as a team to put the wheels together, then add a large wooden beam to sit on. Children count the wheels and work out how many they still need. This helps supports their problem-solving and mathematical skills. When they complete the task, children eagerly ride on it, pretending to be going home, laughing and giggling with excitement. This builds on children's role-play skills, imagination and strengthens their social interactions.

Supportive staff have high expectations of children and they rise to the challenge by following the nursery's routines and rituals exceptionally well. Babies form strong attachments with their key person while older children develop skills needed to become positive learners. As a result, children feel valued and very happy.

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

- Leaders have created a rich and unique curriculum, which is extremely well sequenced and embedded across the nursery. Staff are exemplary role models, enthusiastic and passionate and have a clear vision about what they want children to learn. For example, babies are mesmerised when they engage in a Christmas story, and a sing and sign session. They use various props with great confidence and learn new words such as 'snowman' and 'Santa. Staff make effective use of Makaton signing across the nursery, particularly with younger children and those requiring additional support.
- Staff support children's understanding of the world exceptionally well. They find creative ways, inspired from the nature, to broaden children's experiences, knowledge and skills. For example, older children have an amazing time in the garden exploring the mud kitchen. They investigate natural resources with curiosity and interest and engage in pretend play with their peers. Children make their own potions or food, skilfully using real tools and utensils. This also helps further develop their fine motor skills, creativity and imagination.
- Staff create fantastic opportunities for the children to build on their hand-to-eye coordination and mathematical skills. For example, older children can use

hammers and nails effectively to create a structure, understanding and adhering to safety measures. This supports risk taking and boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Furthermore, children learn to be active and healthy to build on their gross motor skills, balance, and coordination. Babies enjoy time in the garden or going on walks, while older children laugh with joy as they explore obstacle courses.

- Children's natural curiosity is fostered through reading stories, independently or with the staff. As children become immersed in the narrative of their favourite stories, they engage in meaningful discussions about the characters and events. Children learn new words such as 'sugarplum' and 'hibernate' and confidently identify similar words for 'big', such as 'huge' and 'ginormous'. They then securely count the reindeers and predict what will happen next. As a result, children develop a passion for literature which supports their early reading skills.
- Partnerships with parents are exceptional. Parents praise the 'inspirational activities and the heuristic approach to education' their children receive, and value the tremendous progress they make. They are very thankful for the detailed updates they receive about their children's development. Parents feel involved in their children's learning journey and comment that staff always go 'above and beyond' to make a positive difference.
- The ethos and vision for the nursery is ambitious and focused on positive outcomes for children. Leadership across the nursery is inspirational and inclusive. Leaders value staff, including their well-being and professional development, creating a supportive culture. Leaders' continuous commitment to ensure all children receive the best start to their early education is shared with all staff. They receive focused supervision and training opportunities to ensure their career progression.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff and leaders have secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. This includes aspects, such as female genital mutilation and 'Prevent' duty. They also have deep knowledge and understanding of how to deal with disclosures and make referrals to relevant professionals to protect children from harm. There is a robust induction process in place to ensure all staff complete regular and relevant training, to keep their safeguarding knowledge current. Policies and procedures are robust, effective and updated regularly. These are implemented accordingly and shared with staff and parents. Risk assessments are robust and completed daily. Furthermore, effective staff deployments means that children are well supervised and cared for. This helps to assure children's safety and welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346906
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10316879
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	48
Number of children on roll	104
Name of registered person	Sallywags Nursery - Chelmsford Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP526745
Telephone number	01245 468857
Date of previous inspection	31 May 2018

Information about this early years setting

Sallywags Nursery Chelmsford registered in 2007. The nursery employs 25 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two with a level 6 qualification. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anca Sandu

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery 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 nursery.
- The inspector and manager completed a learning walk together. They discussed how the curriculum is organised and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and education, both outdoors and indoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Children spoke with the inspector about the activities they were doing.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke with the managers about the leadership and management of the nursery. she looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at 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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