

Inspection of Thatto Heath Playdays

2 Govett Road, Nutgrove Community Centre, St. Helens WA9 5NH

Inspection date: 21 April 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children feel happy and secure in this exceptionally warm and homely environment. They thrive in the care of loving highly skilled staff who know them very well. The children are calm and contented in their care, welcoming visitors with smiles. Excellent first-hand experiences help children to learn about their local community. For instance, children visit local residents with homemade cookies on special occasions to cheer people up. These activities successfully encourage children to experience the awe and wonder of the wider world. Children demonstrate excellent behaviour. They follow the golden rules confidently as they play cooperatively with each other. Younger children play outside harmoniously together, sharing musical instruments and joining in each other's songs.

Children show consistently high levels of engagement and interest, sustaining their concentration as they explore paint colours and texture printing with dinosaurs. Children take part in activities that are highly stimulating and exciting. They carefully spoon porridge oats into bowls retelling the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Children are absorbed in mark making outside with water and brushes, developing their writing skills in preparation for the next stage in their learning. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff offer additional support for children's personal and social development. Staff skilfully role model sharing and turn-taking to younger children. The inspiring curriculum enhances the experiences and meets the needs of all children individually.

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

- The quality of the education is exceptional because staff know the children and their families so very well. The curriculum is superbly well planned and sequenced for all children. Older children are delighted as they tap out a rhythm to a song using chopsticks. This supports children to develop their early reading skills.
- Staff are dedicated, nurturing and highly skilled at planning activities and next steps which support individual children. For instance, some children receive very close support during times of transition within the pre-school. All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are incredibly well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Communication and language development is promoted to a consistently high standard. This is improving the outcomes for the children's spoken language and increasing their vocabulary. Children share a love of reading with the staff. They read stories in a way that excites and engages children and highly motivates them to learn. Staff enthusiastically encourage younger children to join in with the 'hello song', developing their ability to speak, listen and understand.
- Children's individual needs are at the heart of decision-making in this pre-school.

Termly pre-school council meetings enable children to offer important suggestions about their setting. They discuss the environment organisation, trips and resource purchases. These are life skills preparing children for their future success.

- Staff skilfully support children and their families to develop healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy a range of fruits for snack. Staff cook healthy meals in the nursery and share meal ideas with parents. The manager registers families with dentists to improve dental care for the children.
- Leaders go above and beyond in their commitment to provide first-class enrichment activities. Children visit places of interest in the local community, such as the library and local park. Children are quickly learning about the world around them.
- Leaders and staff develop fantastic parent partnerships. Staff share information via an online communication system. Parents are offered home visits and workshops about transitions to school. Children take books and recipes home from the pre-school to share with their families. Parents fondly describe the happy, kind and dedicated staff team. Parents' comments regarding the care and education their children receive are overwhelmingly positive.
- Leadership and management is exceptional. The manager shares her vision and passion with staff and families of providing a high-quality education to all. This helps them to work together and consistently improve outcomes for children. Staff training refreshes ways to support and educate children. This ensures all children achieve their maximum potential.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The arrangements for safeguarding are highly effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of their role and responsibility in protecting children from harm. They are exceptionally vigilant in identifying, and confidently describe the correct procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's welfare. Safeguarding policies and procedures are well embedded throughout the nursery. Staff understand how to refer concerns beyond the manager if necessary. Staff are aware of the most frequent categories of abuse within the area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2541807
Local authority	St Helens
Inspection number	10215372
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	63
Name of registered person	Thatto Heath Playdays Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2541806
Telephone number	07917795687
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Thatto Heath Playdays was registered in 2019. The pre-school employs ten members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with early years professional status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emma Ashcroft

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 pre-school.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together to talk about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The manager spoke to the inspector about how they support children and their families with SEND.
- The manager and inspector carried out a joint observation of a phonics activity.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

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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