

Inspection of Just Imagine...Day Nursery & Out Of School Club

61 Station Avenue, Wickford, Essex SS11 7AS

Inspection date: 14 March 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children receive a friendly and warm welcome from staff, with whom they have formed secure bonds. Children settle into self-chosen play in an environment that is inviting and well planned. They are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Children are confident and demonstrate that they feel secure and safe. They are keen to speak to visitors and proudly show them their creations. Children behave well. They have formed good friendships and are kind to each other. For example, the pre-school children start a game of hide and seek, harmoniously deciding among themselves whose turn it is to count.

Children benefit from a well-thought-out and ambitious curriculum that builds on what they already know and can do. Staff have high expectations of the children and know them and their individual needs well. Children's interests, and their parents' suggestions, are considered when activities are planned. This helps children to make good progress in their learning and development, and prepares them for their next stage of learning.

Children gain an understanding of their local community and the wider world. They visit the local retirement home to deliver gifts they have made for the residents. Children donate items and make them into hampers to deliver to people nearby. This teaches them about helping others.

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

- Children have ample opportunity to choose books to look at independently or with staff. Staff readily join them to read the books they have chosen. Staff introduce books that link to activities or children's interests. For example, after giving the pet tortoise a bath, a story is shared about a tortoise. This helps children develop a love of stories and books.
- Children are well supported in learning to be independent. At snack time, older children pour their own drinks and self-select resources during their play. Younger children help to tidy up and find their bags when getting their clothes changed. Staff ask children if they would like help with tasks before they support them. This gives children the opportunity to persevere with tasks independently if they wish.
- Overall, staff interactions during play help to promote children's communication and language skills. Children are encouraged to share their ideas and communicate with each other. In the older children's rooms, new words are introduced and their meaning explained to the children. In the younger children's rooms, staff sing songs and rhymes with the children and use single words during their play. However, staff who work with younger children do not always promote language development as well as possible. For example, they do

not add more words to what the children say or offer a commentary to their play to introduce new language.

- Staff work closely with other agencies to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They liaise with parents to set targets for children to work towards, and seek extra help and support for them. Children's individual needs are supported, and adaptations are made to ensure all children can access all aspects of the curriculum.
- The staff are very reflective. They use evaluation effectively to make improvements to the nursery provision. For example, staff have recently made changes to the lunchtime routines to enhance the experience for the children. They have also improved the arrangements for children with food allergies to help ensure their safety.
- Relationships with parents are positive. Parents report that they are well supported by the staff team, and their children are happy to come to the nursery. Parents' views are sought and action is taken based on these views, to improve the service provided. Staff engage with parents about their children's learning and development. This helps to establish a consistent approach to supporting children's learning. Parents report that their children have made progress in their learning and development since attending the setting.
- Staff benefit from a supportive and encouraging manager. They receive targeted training and ongoing professional development opportunities. Staff morale is high and teamwork is effective. This means that children are cared for by happy and motivated staff.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff team understand their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's well-being. Staff know how to report concerns to an appropriate professional. They ensure that they complete regular safeguarding training to keep their knowledge up to date. Safeguarding is discussed during supervisions and at staff meetings. Staff are aware of wider safeguarding issues such as female genital mutilation and county lines. Children are well supervised in both the indoor and outdoor environment to ensure they are safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to make the most of their interactions with younger children, to progress their speech and language skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395109
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10282335
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 11
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	120
Name of registered person	Just Imagine Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534078
Telephone number	01268 761393
Date of previous inspection	28 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

Just Imagine...Day Nursery & Out Of School Club registered in 2009. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff. Of these, 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions run from 7am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lyndsey Barwick

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- This inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information received about the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection 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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