

Inspection of Growing Wild Outdoor Nursery

Wigfield Farm, Haverlands Lane, Worsbrough, Barnsley, Yorkshire S70 5NQ

Inspection date: 13 January 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy, curious and well behaved. They enjoy the many active and stimulating opportunities that staff plan for them in the fully outdoor environment. Staff plan engaging activities to support and challenge children. For instance, children develop their coordination and muscle control as they negotiate climbing, balancing and swinging on increasingly challenging wooden structures and trees. Children rise to staff's high expectations. They learn to play independently, but also appreciate that some tasks, such as moving heavy pans and branches, are easier to do together.

Children are safe and well cared for. They learn to consider their own risks in their play and to keep themselves safe. Children follow instructions well and tidy away when they finish playing. They mix happily and easily with adults and their peers. Children build strong bonds with the staff who care for them. They learn to nurture and care for the newborn lambs and other animals on the farm, which the nursery is based in. This contributes to children's well-being and personal development.

Parents strongly recommend the nursery. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have maintained close contact with families. They have provided a range of activities to engage and support children. This helped children to continue their learning at home.

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

- The managers are positive role models to staff and parents. They are dedicated and caring in providing a curriculum and ethos, which helps children to learn and develop. Staff constantly aim to improve opportunities for the children in their care. They regularly reflect on their practice. Staff gather the views of children and parents to plan effectively for the nursery's further development. They make good use of research and training to develop the nursery's curriculum to meet the needs of all children.
- Staff know children well. They use carefully considered induction procedures to help children to settle smoothly into the pre-school's routines. Staff gather detailed information from parents to ensure that they know children's individual interests and needs. This helps them to plan securely for children's future learning. Staff work together during weekly planning sessions and training days. They use this time to make sure that activities support children of all ages and abilities to make progress in their learning.
- Overall, staff support children's communication skills well. They create many opportunities for children to talk together about their interests and activities. For example, children name insects and creatures they find in the nursery's bug hotels and pond. They discuss the flavours of ice creams in their muddy kitchen.

However, staff do not consistently extend and develop children's vocabulary. For example, they sometimes leave children playing too long without adult intervention to help them to build on their thinking and language skills.

- Children make strong progress in their physical development. They develop an awareness of following a healthy lifestyle. Children are physically challenged when they climb trees, create their own swings and crawl through tunnels. They enjoy being outdoors in all weathers. Staff provide guidance and support to parents. For example, they make suggestions about varied and healthy meals, and to encourage their children to try different foods.
- Staff strongly promote children's enjoyment of stories and books. They provide many books that children can easily access throughout the nursery grounds. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes. This prepares them well for listening to the carefully chosen and well-read stories that staff introduce them to. Staff help children to become familiar with books through enjoyable activities. For instance, children go on bear hunts and 'Gruffalo' trails in the grounds, and take part in role play and puppet shows. These strategies help children to enjoy and recall the plots of stories, and appreciate the rhythm and language structure.
- Parents are fully appreciative of the support their children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, receive and the progress that they make. They welcomed the imaginative steps staff deployed to keep children involved during the pandemic. For example, staff created videos for children to join in during lockdown periods, such as acting out the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' with their families.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The designated safeguarding leads ensure that staff are well trained in child protection procedures. They hold frequent safeguarding discussions at weekly meetings and make sure that staff access the latest training. Staff have a good knowledge of the signs that children may be at risk of abuse and neglect. They know how to report them. Staff are vigilant and ensure that the nursery is safe and secure.

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 build on children's language and vocabulary further during their play and activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2535612
Local authority	Barnsley
Inspection number	10215197
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Growing Wild Outdoor Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2535611
Telephone number	07882164643
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Growing Wild Outdoor Nursery registered in 2019. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. This includes eight staff at level 6, five of whom hold qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Thursday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Andrew Clark

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 the evaluation of the provider.
- The managers and the inspector conducted a learning walk together to review children's learning experiences.
- The children talked to the inspector about their activities.
- The managers and the inspector conducted a joint observation of children's activities.
- Discussions were held with senior leaders and members of staff.
- The inspector discussed the management and organisation of the nursery with the manager. He reviewed relevant documents.
- The inspector held discussions to seek the views of parents.

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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