

Inspection of Sunflowers at St. Anne's

Wellington Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7DA

Inspection date: 16 July 2025

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 form strong friendships and play harmoniously. For instance, children negotiate between themselves who will climb first, demonstrating democracy and appreciation for cooperative play. Staff use simple and effective strategies to help children understand what is expected of them. For instance, a visual timetable helps children to better understand routines. Staff show a yellow and then red card, and children understand this is an indication to tidy up. They all sing together as they organise the space and toys. Children are helpful and behaviour is good.

Children are encouraged to choose where they would like to play. This independence helps children to express themselves and explore their talents through self-chosen play. Children are motivated and eager because learning is fun. To illustrate, children choose to dress up. They develop their ideas through imaginative play. Staff join in and dress up as wizards. They talk about 'potions' and 'spells', introducing new and descriptive words to extend children's emerging vocabulary. Staff initiate a game of chase and children enjoy running outside. They encourage children to run slow and fast, extending coordination. Staff are great role models. They play with children and subtly extend challenge to promote learning. Staff help children to learn about nature and the world around them. For example, children describe with enthusiasm the wildflowers they have planted to encourage bees and wildlife into the garden. Children learn to be compassionate through nature and living creatures.

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

- A recently formed senior leadership team are ambitious, hardworking and driven. They have worked tirelessly over recent months to make some impressive improvements to the environment and curriculum and still strive for even more. They know what they do well and have high aspirations and a sharp vision for the setting. The quality of this provision is good and continually improving.
- Children benefit from a rich, varied and stimulating programme of play. The curriculum is carefully designed with clear intent to support each and every child. Children's interests are incorporated into activities to ignite their awe, wonder and curiosity. Children have fun and enjoy their learning.
- Staff work closely with outside agencies and professionals. For example, expert physical and French teachers attend each week to enrich learning in these areas. Speech and language specialists and local authority officers provide advice on how to best support children. These strong links with a range of professionals helps to ensure all children's needs are met.
- Staff ensure the nursery is safe, clean and well organised. They sterilise tables before meals, to promote children's good health. They wear protective aprons

and gloves when changing nappies or serving food to maintain the utmost hygiene. Children's health and welfare are professionally managed.

- Staff work hard to develop good relationships with parents. They regularly share information about children's progress and experiences through a convenient online app. Parents comment they find this system easy to use and are reassured by the daily updates. Staff and parents share back-and-forth information about children through face-to-face discussions and online updates. This continual communication facilitates seamless care and learning between home and the setting.
- Staff support children to prepare for school. Children who are about to make this transition speak with excitement about their new school adventure and what they are expecting. Staff have excellent links with the local school and teachers often visit and share their expertise and teaching ideas with staff. This helps to ensure that children make a smooth transition to school when the time eventually comes.
- Managers and room leaders often observe staff because they are continually present within the rooms. However, they do not provide staff with individualised feedback on their practice, to help them better understand how to improve their good teaching and help children make rapid progress.
- Children make good progress across all areas of learning. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to develop their writing skills outside. This does not consistently support those children who prefer to learn outdoors.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide staff with frequent feedback on their practice, including areas to develop to help them better understand what they do well and how to improve
- extend the rich learning environment available outdoors to include more writing opportunities to fully support those children who prefer to learn outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2723289
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10394687
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	48
Number of children on roll	170
Name of registered person	Sunflowers at St. Anne's
Registered person unique reference number	2723284
Telephone number	01270623333
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Sunflowers at St Anne's registered in 2023 There are currently 16 staff working directly with children, 13 of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery operates for 51 weeks each year, closing for one week at Christmas and bank holidays. The nursery provides government funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk alongside the manager. They discussed how the curriculum is designed and what leaders intend for children to learn.
- The inspector observed activities and teaching indoors and outdoors and evaluated the impact on children's progress.
- The inspector spoke with parents, children and staff at convenient times and considered their views.
- The manager provided a range of documentation upon request. The inspector reviewed the suitability checks for all adults working with children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation alongside the manager.

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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