

Alphabet House Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector

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Type of setting

Childcare on non-domestic premises

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the setting

Alphabet House Day Nursery opened in 1996. It operates from two floors of converted premises in the town of Beeston, Nottinghamshire. There is a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The day nursery serves the local area and surrounding villages. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 52 children from seven months to six years on roll. This includes 23 children who receive funding for nursery education. The setting supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting opens five days a week all year except Bank Holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery employs 10 full-time and three part-time staff who work with the children. Over half of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Three members of staff are currently working towards a Level 4 National Vocational Qualification. The setting receives support from Nottinghamshire Local Authority and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. The day nursery is one of three owned by the same family, who delegate day-to-day responsibility to the staff.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good.

Alphabet House Day Nursery provides a safe and stimulating environment for children. The nursery is committed to ensuring every child feels safe and secure which provides a firm basis for children to make good progress in their learning and development. Children's individual needs are met well as staff are proactive in ensuring they have a good knowledge of the differing needs of the children in their care. Strong relationships with parents and others support this effectively. The management team work closely together to ensure the ongoing improvement of the provision and have established good systems to support this to happen.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop the system of assessing and recording children's progress, clearly prioritising next steps for them to work towards in each of the six areas of learning and use the information to plan some practical play activities to help each child reach their full potential
- develop parent contribution to the Learning Journeys to support staff in assessing children's starting points

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe, secure setting, where staff are deployed effectively to ensure children are well supervised. Bright, well-cared for play areas along with a good selection of interesting toys and resources, and a warm and welcoming staff team help to create an accessible, stimulating environment where children learn through play. The setting's clear practices, procedures and policies, which are regularly reviewed and clearly understood and implemented by the staff team, contribute to the safe and efficient management of the setting. This ensures that children are safeguarded and their needs are met. A comprehensive risk assessment supported by effective daily checking procedures, ensure that potential hazards are identified and minimised. The clear safeguarding policy, along with the staff's good understanding of child protection procedures, results in children being fully protected. The staff team work well together, supporting each other to ensure consistency of care for individual children. They demonstrate a commitment to promoting positive outcomes for children by developing their own knowledge through ongoing training. The effective system of self-evaluation which also incorporates input from parents ensures all aspects of the provision are monitored and evaluated, therefore supporting ongoing improvement.

Staff have established positive relationships with parents, carers and other providers. A good level of information is gathered from parents at the outset to support children to settle in and to enable staff to respond well to their care needs. However, this information does not yet extend to include information relating to what children can do in relation to their learning and development which means that clear starting points for learning are not swiftly established. Parents have opportunities to share their children's progress records, they are actively encouraged to participate in pre-school activities, further promoting the link between home and pre-school. Each child is recognised for their uniqueness and staff encourage all children to learn to value differences and diversity, through activities and sharing information. Effective systems are in place to support children with special educational needs and children with English as an additional language, resulting in them making good progress. Strong relationships have been established with other providers, particularly the local school, to promote consistency and continuity of children's care and learning.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Staff develop good relationships with the families and children so that they soon feel confident in the environment. Clear plans are in place to support children's learning. Staff observe each child regularly and use these observations to assess each child's progress towards the early learning goals. However, these observations are not yet being used as well as they might be to fully identify children's next key steps and to provide fully appropriate challenges for them to

help them make as rapid progress as possible. Daily key activities ensure that all aspects of the areas of learning are covered and staff evaluate these activities well to ensure they have met their intended purpose and whether they are worth repeating. Children have good opportunities to consolidate their understanding and express their creativity through the continuous provision of a role play area and an art and craft table. Older children begin to recognise their names through finding their name card at meal times. They develop their language and speech through, for example, joining in with rhymes and they have pens and pencils set out for them to use at any time to mark make.

Children's independence is promoted well. They are able to make decisions about their play; the creation of learning zones supports this well because children know where to find toys and resources that they want to use and they are able to access them and tidy them away easily. Good levels of support from staff and effective use of questioning whilst children play encourages children's developing language skills. Regular times are planned into the day to share stories; this encourages children's enjoyment of books. Children particularly enjoy sticking and craft activities and have ample opportunities to explore textures and to produce their own individual creations.

Warm and caring relationships with the staff help children to feel safe and secure in their surroundings. They learn about possible dangers and how to keep themselves safe through routines such as fire evacuation procedures. Good hygiene practices across the provision help to minimise the risk of spreading infection. Children learn well the importance of good personal hygiene habits, such as using tissues to wipe their noses and disposing of them appropriately. They follow routines well, such as washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children are offered well-balanced and healthy meals, they learn about foods that are good for them as they help themselves to healthy snacks such as dried fruit. Children throughout the provision behave well; they receive high levels of attention and are engaged in interesting activities. During focused activities older children learn to share, take turns and respect the needs of their peers. Staff provide good opportunities for children to explore and discover things for themselves, supporting the development of skills they will need for the future.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	2

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	2
The effectiveness of safeguarding	2
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	2
The effectiveness of partnerships	2
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	2
The extent to which children feel safe	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	2
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	2

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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