

Apricot Day Nursery

Lescun Close, Pangbourne Road, Upper Basildon, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 8LN



Inspection date

22 January 2015

Previous inspection date

25 February 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Some staff lack confidence in implementing policies and procedures and feel the need to refer to more experienced colleagues for guidance. The impact of this is minimised as there are staff in each room who have a secure knowledge of all working practices.
- The positioning of drinking water in the baby room means that children cannot always see this to choose to have a drink independently.

It has the following strengths

- Methods used to manage behaviour are effective as staff explain to children the consequences of their actions.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery. Staff effectively pass information to parents keeping them well informed on their child's progress.
- Assessments of children are strong and, as a result, children are progressing well across all areas of learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- monitor staff awareness of procedures and working practices to ensure that they are all fully confident in their individual responsibilities.

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

- position babies' water so that they are able to see and reach their drinks independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff to check their understanding of practice.
- The inspector sampled policies and documentation.
- The inspector toured the premises.

Inspector

Sara Hope

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide interesting, suitably challenging activities. As a result, children are making steady progress in all areas of learning. Staff support children well to become independent and to develop skills to prepare them to move to older groups within the nursery, and on to school. Babies are learning sign language, helping them to communicate effectively, while older children sound out letters and words. Staff encourage children to enjoy books and older children are beginning to recognise and write their own names. Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve and encourage them to take part in activities, building confidence with lots of praise. Staff model behaviour and communication effectively for children. They consistently explain to children the importance of sharing and being kind to their friends. Parents state that their children settle well. Staff inform parents about their children's progress on a daily basis and parents have ongoing opportunities to make contributions to children's progress reports.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

All children are allocated a key person, helping them to form appropriate bonds with familiar people. Overall, arrangements to safeguard children are adequate, although some staff have a more precise knowledge of the nursery's procedures than others. Children are happy and confidently explore their surroundings. They comfortably chat with staff, enjoy reading stories and like to play in the dressing-up corner. Children receive appropriate support to develop physical skills and to keep themselves healthy. Staff provide nutritious meals and discuss healthy options. Drinking water is available, although the positioning of beakers in the baby room does not always encourage them to make a conscious choice to have a drink. Staff visit local schools to identify what is expected from children who are preparing to move up from the nursery. This helps them to offer better support and prepare children more effectively.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The provider and manager understand their responsibility to promote children's safety, welfare and learning. The manager holds regular staff meetings, during which staff discuss issues such as safeguarding procedures, and are able to share any concerns. Staff make effective use of training to develop practice, such as guidance on improving assessment arrangements. However, arrangements to monitor staff are not fully effective. The provider has not identified that some staff have developed a clearer understanding of working procedures than others. Staff are developing strong relationships with parents and liaise with local schools to support children effectively. Staff welcome all children and families and provide effective opportunities for children to progress. Staff are proactive in making changes to improve outcomes for children. For example, children used to all be grouped together but are now in separate age groups, offering better structure.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317616
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	834521
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Eve-Maria Loisel
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2010
Telephone number	01491 671 044

Apricot Day Nursery opened in 2006. It is privately owned and is situated in Upper Basildon on the outskirts of Pangbourne, Berkshire. It operates from one-storey premises with an additional baby unit within the same grounds. The nursery opens each week day from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four. All five staff hold relevant early years qualifications.

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