

# Simba's Den

Memorial Hall Main Street, Bulwick, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 3DY



## Inspection date

22 January 2015

## Previous inspection date

2 February 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching throughout the nursery is outstanding. Staff plan an exceptional range of high-quality learning experiences for children both inside and outside. As a result, all children are excited and highly motivated to explore and show a real enthusiasm for learning.
- Children form very close relationships with the staff who care for them each day. This means that all children's individual needs are exceptionally well met through the strong attachments they form with the staff.
- Children's independence and decision-making skills are adeptly supported because the staff fully involve them in the planning of their activities and enable them to be confident to choose what they want to do.
- The nursery's leadership and management is highly effective in driving improvement. Staff show they are absolutely committed to achieving excellence in all areas of their activity with the children and their parents.
- Excellent partnerships between parents, schools and the nursery staff ensure that information is shared about children's progress and care routines. This has a positive impact on children being very well prepared for the move on to school and ensures that parents are well informed about their progress.
- The staff work extremely well together and are excellent role models for the children. The nursery is a relaxed and fun environment where each child is respected and valued.
- Children benefit greatly from activities in the woodland environment where they are highly motivated to explore and show a great interest in the nature around them.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already successful opportunities for children to enhance their literacy skills through linking sounds and letters, for instance, by providing even more examples of text in the resources that children select and work on independently.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on the children's learning in both the playrooms, in the nursery garden and during an outing to a local country park.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, with two members of staff and looked at a range of documentation including the planning and assessment.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children.
- The inspector spoke with a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

## Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

## Inspection findings

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

Staff use their strong knowledge of how children learn and their expert teaching skills to provide all children with an outstanding range of learning opportunities. Babies develop their communication skills through highly positive interaction from the staff when playing games, such as Peep-bo. Children are actively supported to initiate activities themselves. Children benefit greatly from woodland activities with staff who have had specialised training. They thoroughly enjoy exploring the natural environment. These activities offer uninterrupted time where the children play and experiment. The expert involvement from the staff means that children are making rapid progress in their learning. Children develop skills for their future learning. They ask questions and think about how to solve problems which means that they are very well prepared for moving on when the time comes. Staff work in close partnership with parents to promote a shared approach to each child's individual learning needs. The precise, sharply focused assessments and planning supports children's learning and is regularly shared with parents.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding**

Children's well-being is very well supported through the exceptional care arrangements that are planned with parents. New children settle quickly as the staff provide them with time to explore the environment gradually. Staffing is consistent, so children are very familiar with their key person, seeking them out for reassurance when needed. Children's care needs, such as feeding, are carried out by the main carers and this supports children's emotional security very well. The manager has an excellent understanding of her responsibility to safeguard children. She ensures that all staff implement safe practices very well to promote children's health, safety and well-being. Staff are excellent role models. They get fully involved in children's play helping them to take turns, share and think of others. This enables children to form strong friendships as they quickly understand the expectations for behaviour.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding**

The manager and staff team work exceptionally well together. They clearly demonstrate a shared commitment towards delivering excellent standards of care and learning for all children attending. Highly effective arrangements for recruiting new staff, supervision and checking their activity with children contribute to high levels of consistently good practice. The manager's robust procedures for continually checking the quality of the provision both on site and of the outings ensures that children are provided with rich and challenging activities. The manager's detailed analysis of children's assessments means that any extra learning needs are recognised and met quickly. Self-evaluation accurately identifies how the nursery continues to improve. The manager recognises how they can extend even further, the opportunities for children to indulge in self-chosen tasks that links to their literacy development.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY396725
<b>Local authority</b>	Northamptonshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	859819
<b>Type of provision</b>	
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	28
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	56
<b>Name of provider</b>	Samantha Clare Butterwick
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	2 February 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01780 450937

Simba's Den day nursery was registered in 2009 and is managed privately. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, 3 and 2, including two with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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