

Rascals Childcare Ltd

Huntingdon Church, Talbot Avenue, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 9HP



Inspection date

23 January 2015

Previous inspection date

28 January 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are well protected because staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures. They know how to report concerns they may have about a child's safety and welfare.
- Children form strong, trusting relationships with the staff, which makes them feel secure and gives them a strong sense of belonging.
- Children make good progress in their learning because teaching is good. Children are well prepared for school because of the good transfer arrangements and strong links with the school.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are a key strength in ensuring that children are well supported to achieve the best that they can. Parents are appreciative of the quality of care and education provided.
- Leadership and management are good because there are robust systems in place to monitor and evaluate all aspects of the provision. The nursery seeks the views of parents, children and staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Information and communication technology resources are limited and therefore do not fully support children's learning in literacy and mathematics.
- There is scope to improve opportunities for children to explore a wider range of textures and materials.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the provision for information and communication technology in order to support and extend children's literacy and mathematical skills
- provide more opportunities for children to explore a wider range of textures and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the setting, held discussions with the manager and provider and conducted a joint observation with the manager and provider.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching, both indoors and outside.
- The inspector looked at documentation relating to safeguarding, children's records, planning and assessment and the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff qualifications and their suitability to work with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Vicky Turner

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is rooted in staff's good knowledge of children's skills and abilities. New systems for observation and assessment enable staff to plan good learning opportunities that engage and interest the children. Children's language and communication skills are well supported because adults model language well and extend children's vocabulary. For example, children are enthused by a favourite story about three goats and join in with repetitive phrases and actions. Children practise their pre-writing and mark making skills and listen for sounds in words. They use time-related vocabulary and explore colours and shapes as they make a collage. However, materials on offer do not give enough scope for children to explore different textures. Children draw pictures on the laptop but other information and communication technology resources for supporting children's literacy and mathematical skills are limited. Good partnerships with parents ensure that parents are fully engaged in their children's learning and support their children's learning at home. Children benefit from visits to the local community, which contributes well to their understanding of people and communities. Children are developing a good range of skills that will help them learn when they start school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children happily engage in a range of interesting, self-selected activities in this safe and stimulating environment. Key persons form strong relationships with children and their families. As a result, children feel secure and safe with the staff. Staff are good role models and model positive behaviour, so children understand what is expected of them. Consequently, children behave well and develop positive attitudes towards each other. Praise and rewards are used effectively to motivate children and boost their self-esteem. Children are confident to deal with change as they move on to school. This is because they receive good support from the staff. Children are physically active outdoors on a daily basis and enjoy healthy snacks. This contributes to their good health. They are beginning to understand the need to eat healthily. Children are encouraged to be independent and deal with their personal care. They learn how to stay safe and manage risks themselves. For example, they assess the risks in play areas outside.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Safeguarding practices are good, so children are well protected at this setting. The new manager provides strong leadership for an effective team. The manager and her staff have a good knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the quality of the provision and have set ambitious targets and action plans. Systems for monitoring staff performance are good. Staff supervision meetings are effective in identifying some staff training needs, which leads to continuous professional development. Good tracking systems mean that staff have a clear view of children's progress. The nursery has successfully addressed the action and recommendations from the last inspection.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY299101
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	962786
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	Rascals Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 January 2014
Telephone number	01268 786893

Rascals Childcare Ltd was registered in 2005. It operates from a hall in Rayleigh, Essex. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 9am until 11.30am and 12.30pm until 3pm. A breakfast and after-school club are also available. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old. Of the 13 staff who work at the nursery, 11 hold relevant qualifications equivalent at level 2 or 3.

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