

The Rowans Day Nursery

The Rowans Sure Start Childrens Centre, 13a Moorfoot, Fullers Slade, MILTON KEYNES, MK11 2BD



Inspection date

5 February 2015

Previous inspection date

21 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

- Staff monitor and assess the children's learning comprehensively. They provide good support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and everyone is fully included in nursery life.
- Children are happily engaged in a wide variety of activities, which are well-planned to help them to make good progress in all areas of learning. Good quality toys and resources are available for children to choose from, both indoors and outdoors.
- Staff establish strong partnerships with parents to meet the needs of the children. Parents hold the nursery in high regard and compliment the staff for helping their children to develop good speaking and listening skills, and to gain confidence and independence skills.
- Staff effectively promote and support the children's health and well-being. Caring and nurturing relationships with staff enables children to form close attachments and feel secure. Children's behaviour is good; they clearly enjoy playing and learning together.
- Managers implement effective systems for monitoring staff performance and tackling any underperformance. The staff have good opportunities to attend training courses to strengthen their existing good knowledge and skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully support the younger children's understanding of themselves, their families, other people and familiar things in their lives.
- Staff's planning of outdoor activities and opportunities for pre-school children do not fully encourage extension of their existing good mathematical learning experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the younger children's understanding of themselves, their families, other people and familiar things in their lives
- plan pre-school children's outdoor play further to enhance their mathematical learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in both play rooms and the garden.
- The inspector had discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with one of the managers.
- The inspector looked at observation files, tracking systems, the self-evaluation form, and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good and, therefore, children make good progress in all areas of learning and development. Staff create a vibrant, stimulating environment, which encourages the children to participate in a wide range of activities and to sustain their interest. Younger children explore through touch, smell, taste and hearing. They prod and poke dough, listen and dance to music and push buttons on interactive toys. However, staff do not make use of resources, such as photographs of people and important things in younger children's lives, to help them understand the world. Children increase their good literacy skills as they write for a purpose and enjoy listening to stories. They learn about colour, number, size, shape and measurement during many activities. However, staff do not always plan opportunities for children to further extend their understanding of mathematics in the outdoor play environment. Children develop good technical skills as they complete programmes on the computer. They enjoy growing vegetables and finding out about living things, such as the life cycle of the frog and butterfly.

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

Each child has a key person who works closely with their parents and successfully coordinates their care and learning. Children have a growing sense of responsibility, independence, and heightened awareness of keeping safe and healthy. Staff thoroughly assess risks in the environment, and involve the children in good discussions about safe practices. During the routine of the day, children learn to wash their hands, blow their noses and throw tissues away appropriately. Younger children's individual routines are followed for rest times. Children enjoy outdoor play every day and they develop good larger-muscle skills as they climb and slide on apparatus, crawl under the net and throw and catch balls. Children develop good skills to prepare them well for moving on to school.

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

Effective leadership and management is a key factor in the nursery's success. Staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, to ensure that the children are protected from harm, kept healthy and safe. Good procedures are followed for accidents and medication administration, and all staff are paediatric first-aid trained. Very rigorous recruitment procedures result in the employment of professional and knowledgeable staff. The nursery's self-evaluation is accurate and includes the views of children, parents and staff. The staff have a real desire for further improvement. The strong partnerships between staff, parents and others enable children to settle easily into the supportive environment and to make the best possible start. Managers systematically review and update procedures, practices and policies and along with the staff, they are very keen to provide the best possible service for children and their families.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336016
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	962811
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	74
Name of provider	Milton Keynes Council
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2014
Telephone number	01908 563269

The Rowans Day Nursery registered in 2006. It operates from the Children's Centre in Fullers Slade, Milton Keynes. The nursery is open Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year, from 8am until 6pm. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. All of the staff working at the nursery hold relevant qualifications at level 2. Two staff hold Early Years Professional Status.

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