

Noah's Ark Nursery

Blackhorse House, Blackhorse Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0RE



Inspection date

28 January 2015

Previous inspection date

16 April 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 have good opportunities to learn both inside and outside. This means that children make good progress.
- Staff teach children to keep themselves safe through daily routines. Children behave well. For example, they understand the safety rules when playing in the woodland and help staff to keep the environment safe by tidying away resources after play.
- Children form positive, strong attachments with their key person. As a result, children's individual needs are well met. Children are settled and confident.
- Staff help children to lead healthy lifestyles. There are daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise, both within the woodland and dedicated play areas.
- Children develop their speech and language skills well. Staff model clear language and provide meaningful opportunities, such as during outdoor learning sessions and meal times, for children to gain confidence when communicating.
- The very highly qualified leadership team has established robust performance management and professional development systems, which are effectively driving further improvement across the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- New systems for planning and assessment to identify any gaps in children's learning are not yet fully embedded.
- Not all staff are yet fully confident in implementing some policies and procedures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further embed the new systems for planning and assessment in order to identify any gaps in children's learning
- strengthen existing arrangements to ensure all staff, including those who are new, confidently implement all policies and procedures.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector had a meeting with the nursery manager, deputy manager and childcare and curriculum representative from Busy Bees.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as planning and assessment records and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Nikki Whinton

Inspection findings

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

Children are confident, relaxed and self-assured. Staff know how to promote children's learning and plan a wide-ranging programme of exciting activities. As a result, all children are making good progress. Children are gaining good speech and language skills. Staff model clear language, listen carefully to children and give them time to think and respond. Older children talk with excitement about going through 'squishy mud' and become absorbed identifying bugs in the forest. They are engaged and eager to learn. Staff accurately assess children's starting points through discussion with parents and carers. They complete regular observations in order to identify children's achievements and plan the next steps in their learning. The effective key person system means that parents and staff work successfully together to meet children's individual needs, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Through both planned and spontaneous meetings, parents and key persons discuss and share children's achievements and progress.

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

Staff provide a warm, welcoming, stimulating environment. Children have positive relationships with staff and form strong emotional bonds with their key person. As a result, children settle very quickly, are confident and eager to learn. They successfully develop independence and self-care skills, supported by staff who are well deployed to promote children's individual needs. Therefore, children are emotionally well prepared for the next steps in their learning. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. They enjoy freshly prepared meals and know they must clean their hands before eating. Children behave extremely well; they are familiar with the setting's routines and are learning how to keep themselves safe. The leaders fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities. All staff are aware of the setting's policies and procedures. However, some staff are more confident than others.

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

The manager is very competent and astute. Although she and her deputy are only recently in post, these highly qualified leaders have carefully evaluated the provision, identified strengths and areas for development. They have recognised the impact of recent changes and already put effective strategies in place to drive improvement, such as strengthening parents' partnerships and developing provision for outdoor learning. They have established effective systems for staff supervision and training, which support professional development and promote improvement across the nursery. The leaders check the quality of the educational programme, including activities delivered by external providers. Staff performance is monitored to ensure that all children benefit from a wide range of stimulating experiences, which support their learning and development. A new programme for planning and assessment, introduced in order to identify more clearly any gaps in children's learning, is not yet fully embedded into practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY294973
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1004570
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 0
Total number of places	0
Number of children on roll	0
Name of provider	Caring Daycare Limited
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2009
Telephone number	01483 233832

Noah's Ark Nursery registered in 2004 and changed ownership to the Busy Bees chain in 2014. It is in a semi-rural location, close to Woking in Surrey. The nursery is set within its own extensive grounds, which also accommodates a small children's farm and woodland area.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, throughout the year. There are currently 77 children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. Children can attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. A Montessori classroom is available for children aged three to five years, which is led by a trained Montessori teacher.

The nursery provides facilities for disabled access and toilets and welcomes children with special educational needs and /or disabilities as well as those who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 24 members of staff, of whom 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager and deputy are qualified to degree level.

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