

Hickory House Day Nursery

5 High Street, High Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4BG



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

18 February 2015

11 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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		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 confident learners. Their social and emotional development is given a high priority by staff. Consequently, relationships between each child, their key person and other members of the staff team are good.
- Children and babies play and learn in a stimulating environment. Their different developmental needs are met successfully because they benefit from having easy access to a wide variety of toys, activities and equipment.
- Staff assess and minimise risks effectively and strong systems are in place to protect children from harm.
- Children's good health is promoted well because staff encourage them to be physically active every day, outside and in designated indoor play space.
- Staff liaise effectively with parents and with external agencies or services so that they work well together, to ensure that children get the support they need.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Young children's language development is not consistently extended by staff. For example, staff repeat the single words that toddlers say, but they do not add one or two words in order to support sentence construction.
- Children's independence is not fully promoted at mealtimes because they do not serve their own lunch or pour their own drinks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend young children's language development, for example, by adding a word when repeating the single words that they say
- enhance children's growing independence, for example, by supporting them in serving their own lunch and pouring their own drinks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outdoor play area.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted observations of the activities and evaluated the teaching methods with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures, and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff members' suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Jan Burnet

Inspection findings

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

Staff ensure that they plan for learning effectively so that children make good progress and develop skills in readiness for school. Children aged two years and over share the first floor of the building and they choose from a wide range of very good activities and toys. Older children speak clearly and confidently, and have fun communicating with each other in role-play situations. Staff promote their critical thinking well by asking open-ended questions and by giving children time to think about what they want to say. Children play a lotto game and listen intently to different sounds, in order to determine whether they can see the corresponding picture on their card. Young children 'babble' and say single words, which staff repeat. However, staff do not fully support them in beginning to construct sentences. Resources provided for babies promote their sensory development effectively. They explore natural and everyday objects, make marks in paint and sand, and explore different textures in cloth books. Staff challenge them well so that they develop good manipulative skills. For example, at snack time babies are able to pick up raisins and small pieces of banana using a thumb and two-finger grip.

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

Children are confident and emotionally secure. They behave well and staff boost their self-esteem by consistently acknowledging positive behaviour. There is space for two children at a time to use the computer, and they readily take turns. Challenging physical play equipment is accessible on the third floor of the building. Staff ensure that groups of children with similar abilities are supported in gaining confidence and skills while they climb and slide. Good organisation of resources encourages children's independence because they are able to choose and easily select resources for themselves. Children eat healthy food that is cooked fresh on the premises each day. At snack time, they are encouraged to practise their manipulative skills by spreading butter on crackers. However, independence is not maximised because they do not pour their own drinks and they are not given the opportunity to serve their own meal at lunchtime.

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

Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to supervising the children and protecting them from abuse and neglect. Recruitment and selection procedures are clear and vetting procedures for staff are thorough. Children's welfare is addressed because staff keep their first-aid and food hygiene knowledge up to date. Designated staff attend child protection training and cascade their knowledge to all team members. The manager and staff review the provision in order to improve, and parents are asked to make entries in a comments book. A current priority is to complete 'phase two' of changes to the outdoor learning environment, so children will be able to gain a greater awareness of the natural world. The partnership with parents is strong because communication between staff and parents is good. Staff work successfully with parents and other professionals to support children with special educational needs and/ or disabilities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	219941
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	865826
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	55
Number of children on roll	101
Name of provider	Hickory House Day Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2011
Telephone number	01327 703353

Hickory House Day Nursery was registered in 1996. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, level 3 and level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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