

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery



The Old Station, London Road, ST. ALBANS, Hertfordshire, AL1 1JD

Inspection date 20 February 2015
Previous inspection date 14 January 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

- Teaching is good. The well-qualified staff team effectively use accurate observations and assessments of children's progress to plan and provide activities that enable children to achieve well.
- The nursery staff have a good knowledge of the nursery's policies and their individual responsibility to safeguard children. They ensure that children's safety is secured at all times and effectively teach children how to identify and manage risks for themselves.
- Close bonds and attachments between the staff and children ensure that they are happy and enjoy their time in the nursery. Children's good relationships with their key person, effectively supports their emotional well-being. As a result, children thrive in this nursery.
- Highly effective partnerships between parents, external agencies and other professionals, means that children's individual needs are quickly identified and very well met. As a result, children benefit from the high levels of consistency and coherence between home and the nursery.
- The owner, manager and staff have high aspirations and they strive to continue to expand the good care and learning provided for children. They are very effective in accurately monitoring and evaluating the already good practice. This enables the nursery to identify and meet children's needs to a high standard.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The range of resources, learning opportunities and activities in the outdoor areas do not yet equal the excellent opportunities that children receive indoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the frequency and opportunities for babies and children to explore all areas of learning in the outdoor environment to equal those provided indoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all rooms and in the outside areas.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and discussed staff practice with the manager.
- The inspector examined a selection of documentation including evidence of the suitability of staff, policies and procedures and children's information.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to at the time of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to some staff members and children throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Parker

Inspection findings

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

The well-qualified staff team provide high quality teaching and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage to a good level. They accurately observe children and use the information to accurately measure their progress based on their individual starting points. Children benefit from the rich, varied and imaginative experiences that the staff provide indoors. Pre-school children have opportunities throughout the day to choose to play outdoors. They are provided with a selection of activities, equipment and tools, however, these are not as easily accessible and abundant outdoors as those inside. Toddlers have use of their own outdoor area and babies are allocated a time in the day to either go for a walk or play in the garden depending on the weather. This provides children with daily fresh air and exercise. However, there is scope to expand the frequency, choice and accessibility of resources provided outdoors to match the quality of children's learning experiences indoors.

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

The friendly and nurturing staff are skilled in forming affectionate and secure bonds with children. Care practices are good and babies and children display growing levels of confidence and emotional well-being. Children show that they are learning independence and good social skills. They help each other dress up as doctors and cooperatively share the resources and show care and concern for others. Good links with parents ensure that children's care routines and well-being are supported. Staff effectively teach children how to identify risks and manage equipment safely. For example, they help children to balance on and pedal bicycles with support and encouragement. Clear explanations remind children to look out for obstacles and other children, which increases their understanding of safety. As a result, children learn to behave well. They display the key skills they need to be ready to move on to the next stage in their development.

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

The owner, manager and staff deliver the safeguarding and welfare requirements to a high level. Staff are clear and confident about the action they would take if they have a concern about children's welfare. The owner and manager oversee the well qualified staff team. They are effectively supervised and additional training is supported in order to continue to provide good teaching for children. Staff turnover is minimal, all new staff are employed via a robust recruitment and induction process. Staff provide regular information for parents on how well their children are progressing. The owner and manager involve staff, parents and children in monitoring and evaluating their practice to meet the needs of all children. Parents spoken to on the day of the inspection are very complimentary about how the staff have supported them as parents. They also feel that staff have helped their children make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY412270
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	851274
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	47
Number of children on roll	88
Name of provider	Amanda Griffiths Limited
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2011
Telephone number	01727 568366

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including three with level 6 and one who holds Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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