

Horn End Nursery

Lammascote Road, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 3TA



Inspection date

2 March 2015

Previous inspection date

12 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching across the nursery is outstanding. Staff promote children's communication and language skills to an extremely high level. Consequently, all children make rapid progress in their learning.
- Leaders and managers have a strong drive to achieve excellence in all areas. The focussed training and supervision provided for staff, ensures that any areas which can be improved, are addressed quickly. For example, a recent strong focus on promoting mathematics in all rooms, has been highly effective in developing this area of learning.
- Staff provide a highly stimulating environment, indoors and outdoors. The wide range of resources available, include an exceptional level of natural materials, are all easily accessible. Consequently, children are eager to learn and explore the environment.
- Children thoroughly enjoy the superb opportunities provided for physical play. Management invest in external organisations to develop children's football and dance skills. The daily opportunities for outdoor play promote a healthy lifestyle for children.
- Partnerships between parents and staff are promoted to an exceptional level. Staff are extremely proactive about involving parents in their children's learning. They plan stay and play sessions in the nursery, and send home 'chatter bags' to encourage children's language. This ensures optimum learning opportunities for children.
- Staff support children extremely well to form secure emotional attachments with their key person. This enables children to develop in confidence and independence.
- Leaders and managers place high importance on ensuring staff are fully aware of the procedures to safeguard children. All staff have their own learning journal, which includes regular quizzes to test staff's knowledge on child protection. Following the last inspection, management vigilantly monitor the recording of children's attendance, to ensure it is accurate. This helps to keep children safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already robust procedures for monitoring staff practices, for example, by extending the use of technology to observe and record staff interactions with children during activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and from information included in parents' feedback forms.
- The inspector observed activities in all playrooms and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and deputy of the nursery and had discussions with other staff members about their roles and responsibilities, including safeguarding.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures which included safeguarding and complaints, children's learning records and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Val Thomas

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan a superb range of learning opportunities, based on children's interests. Babies thoroughly enjoy making marks with paint on foil paper, and measuring the pasta into various sized containers. Staff use effective open-ended questions to stimulate children's language and thinking. They ask children how they are going to make the perfumed water, and what will happen when they use the pipettes to drop the coloured liquid into the water. Children are extremely confident as they explain their thoughts. Staff encourage children to work together to problem solve, such as when they build a den. This helps to prepare children for future learning, when they move to school. Children initiate many activities themselves which are skilfully supported by staff. For example, children and staff talk about where they are going on the boat, using saucepan lids for the wheel. Assessment arrangements are precise and very thorough, ensuring children's learning needs are met effectively. These are shared frequently with parents to ensure every child makes rapid progress.

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

Staff use superb methods to ensure that children are emotionally secure in the nursery. They encourage parents to provide 'special boxes' for their children, which include family photographs and favourite toys from home. The key person gathers detailed information from parents to help support new children. Consequently, children are settled and extremely confident. Staff place high importance on keeping children safe, but support children well to take manageable risks. For example, children learn how to balance along the beam on their own. Safety checks are completed daily and security of the nursery is very good. Staff sensitively manage daily care practices, such as nappy changing and feeding. They actively encourage children's independence. Children serve their own food and put on their own 'magic coats'. Behaviour is extremely well managed. Staff make excellent use of praise to value children's efforts, which raises self-esteem to a high level.

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

Leadership and management ensure all requirements are met to an exceptional level. The high level of qualified staff and targeted training ensures that staff are highly skilled in promoting children's learning. For example, they demonstrate an excellent understanding of schemas and organise the rooms to facilitate children's interests. Robust procedures for recruiting new staff are in place to help verify staff's suitability. This helps to keep children safe. Managers are very proactive in monitoring the assessment of children's learning. This ensures that any potential learning needs are recognised and met. Staff interactions with children are closely observed and monitored by managers, and they have recently started to video staff interactions. Managers plan to complete this for all staff, in order to ensure teaching remains outstanding. Partnerships with other professionals are effective to ensure children's individual needs are met. Staff place high priority on promoting partnerships with local schools to ensure consistency in children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217093
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	979457
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	64
Number of children on roll	143
Name of provider	Deborah Elizabeth Barton
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2014
Telephone number	01785 609699

Horn End nursery was registered in 2002 and is one of three nurseries run by the proprietor. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one with level 2, 14 with level 3, one with level 4 and the proprietor, who has Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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