

Shooting Box Day Nursery

Broad Oak Road, Woodstock Park, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8AE



Inspection date

13 March 2015

Previous inspection date

10 February 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

- The quality of the teaching is good. Children make good progress because skilled staff support and extend their individual learning as they play throughout the day.
- Staff are kind and caring. They prioritise keeping children safe and they know the children in their care very well.
- Partnership with children's families is a particular strength. As a result, parents are happy with the care their children receive and they feel that they are fully involved in their children's learning and development.
- Babies benefit from a stimulating environment where staff develop their communication and language skills very well.
- The manager regularly reflects on the practice in the nursery and is committed to continually improving the provision.
- The leadership and management of the nursery is good. They effectively implement robust procedures for the recruitment of new staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, children need to wait for longer than necessary to use the toilet and to wash their hands.
- Although children experiment with early writing skills during their play, there are fewer opportunities for them to conduct their own mathematical investigations, such as measuring and making comparisons with the objects they are using.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create more opportunities for children to use mathematical investigations during their play, for example, by measuring, estimating and comparing
- review the organisation of the session and facilities to enable children to be able to promptly manage their own hygiene routines.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled the nursery documentation, including policies, planning documents, children's records and the nursery team's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked staff records, evidence of suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children and took account of their views.

Inspector

Annette Blundred

Inspection findings

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

Staff gather information from parents and carers about their child's individual needs, during a home visit, before the child starts at the nursery. This helps key persons to get to know children quickly and, as a result, children settle very well. Staff work very effectively with parents, carers and grandparents, some of whom visit the nursery to share their interests and skills. Children have very good opportunities to play both indoors and outdoors in the well-equipped garden. They access a wide range of attractive resources to stimulate their interests. Staff support children with special educational needs very well. Observations and assessments clearly identify children's next steps in learning, and staff share these regularly with parents. Staff use questions effectively to encourage children to think and to consider different ways of doing things. They teach children about the written word and children routinely find their names in print. Staff provide a variety of writing tools for children to practise their mark-making and early writing skills. However, there are fewer opportunities provided for children to experiment with early mathematical concepts.

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

An effective key person system helps babies and children to form secure attachments. The key person and parents exchange information daily through discussion and the use of a contact book. Children develop very positive relationships with staff and each other. Staff are good role models as they gently remind children of the boundaries and expectations in the nursery. They remind children to share and to be polite. They develop children's sense of achievement, their self-esteem and their social skills. Staff teach children about nutritious food and they encourage them to be active outdoors. They promote independence in many ways. Children learn how to grow fruits and vegetables, they help to prepare snacks and staff encourage them to serve themselves. Staff regularly remind them to wash their hands. However, on occasion, children have to queue for long periods to wash their hands or to use the toilet. As a result, some children become uncomfortable.

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

The manager and staff are clear about their responsibilities to protect children from harm and effectively implement the safeguarding procedures. Staff, parents and children contribute ideas to the self-evaluation process. The manager supports staff in regular supervision meetings and this helps to identify professional development needs. For example, following recent training staff have identified further science experiments they can introduce outside

Setting details

Unique reference number	127538
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840667
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Beverley Ann Sawyer
Date of previous inspection	10 February 2011
Telephone number	01795 424262

Shooting Box Day Nursery is situated in Tunstall on the outskirts of Sittingbourne, Kent. It opened in 1989. The baby room is upstairs. The nursery is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The provision is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are seven members of staff working with the children, of whom six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level three and above.

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