

Mucky Pups

The Scout Hut, Magnolia Road, Ashingdon, Rochford, Essex, SS4 3AD



Inspection date

18 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 March 2009

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 well protected because safeguarding practices are good. Comprehensive policies and procedures are rigorously implemented by staff to safeguard the children.
- Robust systems for observing and assessing children enable staff to plan interesting learning opportunities that motivate and engage them. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children are exceptionally well behaved because staff have high expectations and are consistent in their approach to managing behaviour. Consequently, children know what is expected of them and follow instructions very well.
- Strong partnerships with parents and external agencies means that children are well supported. Parents are appreciative of the quality of care and education provided. Staff share information with other settings that the children attend to ensure continuity of care and learning.
- Children are well prepared for the move onto school because of the good arrangements and strong links in place with the receiving schools.
- Strong leadership contributes to a highly effective staff team, which reflects on the practice and is committed to improving outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Story sessions do not always provide sufficient challenge for the older children.
- Children have limited access to information and communication technology equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review arrangements for story sessions, in order to provide good levels of challenge appropriate to the children's age and stage of development
- provide a wider range of information and communication technology activities and equipment to support and enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager and conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector interacted with members of staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, risk assessments, the setting's self-evaluation, children's records and planning.
- The inspector observed learning activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff qualifications and their suitability.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day and from the setting's parents' questionnaires.

Inspector

Vicky Turner

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements. They make detailed observations of children's progress and use this information to plan purposeful activities to support children's next steps in their learning. As a result, children achieve well. Staff promote and extend children's language well. Group discussion times provide good opportunities for children to express their ideas. Children thoroughly enjoy a story session, although, occasionally, there is insufficient challenge to extend older children's learning. Staff take every opportunity to reinforce basic mathematical concepts. Children explore magnetism outdoors and begin to identify materials that are attracted to magnets. However, they have limited access to information and communication technology equipment to further extend their exploratory learning. They celebrate Chinese New Year and enjoy tasting Chinese foods. Regular walks to the park provide good opportunities for children to explore the natural world, observe seasonal changes and wildlife. Parents support their children's learning at home well and contribute to their learning journey records.

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

Children eagerly engage in self-chosen activities on their arrival. The key-person system is highly effective in securing strong bonds with children and their families. As a result, children are happy and feel safe and secure in this calm, safe environment. This promotes their emotional well-being. Children adopt safe practices and are encouraged to assess risks for themselves. Their independence is well promoted. They self-register, set the table for snacks, serve snacks and help tidy up. Children follow good hygiene routines and manage their personal care needs well. They learn to share, take turns and are developing good social skills. Praise and rewards are used well to motivate children. This boosts their self-esteem. As a result, children are developing in confidence. The outdoors provides good opportunities for daily physical activity. Children enjoy healthy snacks, which contribute positively to their good health.

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

Supervisors have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are vigilant and understand the procedures for reporting any concerns about a child. Staff are thoroughly checked to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. They have a clear overview of children's progress because of the highly effective tracking systems in place. Children who need additional support, are quickly identified and supported. The provider monitors staff performance through regular informal observations. Procedures are in place to support staff to improve their knowledge and skills through further training. Systems for evaluating the quality of the provision are effective and take account of the views of parents, children and staff. The pre-school has successfully addressed all recommendations from the last inspection, demonstrating a strong capacity for improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY316938
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	856822
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Mucky Pups Pre School Partnership
Date of previous inspection	23 March 2009
Telephone number	07944162953

Mucky Pups was registered in 2004. The pre-school employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm, with additional sessions from 12.30pm to 3.30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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