

Jack in a Box Nursery

Aycliffe CP School, St. Davids Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT17 9HJ



Inspection date

24 March 2015

Previous inspection date

4 November 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

- The quality of teaching is good. Children with additional needs and those who speak English as an additional language receive effective support from staff. As a result, all children make good progress from their starting points.
- A well-established key-person system enables staff to work closely with parents ensuring that they identify, plan for and meet children's individual needs.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Parents particularly appreciate consultation evenings and the opportunity to share information on their children's progress.
- Staff are well trained in safeguarding and child protection. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. There is a strong emphasis on children's safety and well-being. The manager has robust recruitment and supervision procedures ensuring staff are suitable to care for children. As a result, children are well protected.
- Partnerships with the children's centre and school are well established. These partnerships ensure children and their families, receive good support in preparation for the next stage of their learning, either starting nursery or moving into school.
- The small friendly staff team work well together. There is a positive commitment to continuous improvement through identified training and effective self-evaluation.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff are too quick to help children during play activities rather than encouraging them to try to do things for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's independence further by consistently giving them time and opportunities to do things for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery rooms and all areas of the children's centre and school used by the children.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times, during indoor and outdoor play.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and key persons. The inspector discussed a range of documents including children's assessment files, policies and procedures, the nursery's self-evaluation and staff recruitment and suitability.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken with on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Bernadette Gibbs

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff understand how children learn and provide a good range of adult-led and child-initiated activities to meet the children's needs. The environment is welcoming and appealing. Children choose resources easily and independently. However, occasionally, staff do not maximise opportunities to promote children's independence as they do not consistently encourage children to do things for themselves. For example, staff selected and placed blocks for children during a construction activity. They did not give them time to choose and work out where they wanted to add blocks independently. Nevertheless, staff model language well and use good questioning skills allowing children plenty of opportunities to think and respond.

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

Children are cared for in a secure environment where everyone is warmly welcomed and supported by a strong key-person system. Staff implement a gradual settling-in process which ensures children are extremely well nurtured and that they develop a strong sense of belonging. Staff encourage children to be independent in serving their fruit at snack time, putting on their coats and using the toilet independently. This helps children to learn skills to care for themselves in readiness for the move to school. There are a good range of written policies and procedures, including risk assessments, which staff implement well to maintain children's welfare and safety.

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

The manager regularly monitors children's development to ensure that individual children are making good progress across the areas of learning. Where any child's progress is less than expected, staff implement individual plans with targeted support to help them move forward. Parents contribute to these plans and appreciate the attention given to support their children's learning in nursery and at home. The manager uses staff supervision meetings to help her robustly monitor and improve practice. Staff receive relevant ongoing training which drives forward positive outcomes for children and ensures that staff remain suitable to work with children. Recommendations from the previous inspection have been addressed. Children receive support in using a range of computer equipment from knowledgeable staff. Additionally, the outdoor play area includes a wider range of toys and equipment to extend children's learning and physical development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY287295
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	833702
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	Michelle Sandra Allen
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2009
Telephone number	01304 213111

Jack in a Box Nursery registered in 2005. It operates from a room within the Children's Centre at Aycliffe Primary School. The nursery is open term time only from 8am until 5pm. The nursery employs six staff, of these, one holds a qualification at level 4 and four hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery is registered to receive early education funding for children aged two, three and four years.

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