

Jack in the Box

Scouts Headquarters, Clay Lane, Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6NS



Inspection date

26 March 2015

Previous inspection date

16 November 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

- Staff use thorough observations and assessments to help them to plan and provide tailored support for children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. As a result, all children make good progress given their starting points.
- Staff build strong links with parents and share a wealth of information which helps them to promote continuity of learning.
- Staff work closely with other professionals to identify and promptly support any gaps in children's learning. As a result, any identified gaps in learning are closing.
- Children learn about the benefits of healthy eating because staff consistently remind them of healthy food choices and how they have a positive effect on their bodies.
- The manager strongly supports staff in their ongoing professional development. She identifies the strengths across the staff team and accesses training for staff to improve the outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently use skilful questions to encourage children to share their own knowledge and ideas during their play and learning.
- Staff do not consistently provide opportunities for children to enhance their awareness of mathematical concepts and develop their skill, such as by encouraging them to measure and compare sizes during their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the questioning techniques used by staff to encourage children to share their knowledge and ideas
- enhance children's mathematical skills by providing more opportunities for them to use measures and comparisons in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the children, staff and manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, suitability records, policies and procedures and learning and development.

Inspector

Helen Porter

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 challenge children's physical skills very well. They provide obstacle courses inside, and encourage children to throw balls in hoops and balance as they walk along beams. This helps children to build control and confidence in their movements and coordination. Staff encourage children to count but provide fewer opportunities for children to use measures in their play. Staff help children to communicate and use picture labels, which particularly helps young children and those with communication difficulties. For example, staff use the labels to help children to point out which resources they would like to play with. However, at times, staffs' questioning techniques do not always maximise children's chances to share their own knowledge as they do not consistently ask questions that encourage to think and then respond. Staff encourage parents to contribute towards their children's progress summaries. They invite them to 'stay and play' sessions where staff share information about children's achievements and their next steps in learning. This helps parents to further support their children's learning at home.

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

The key-person system is strong and staff have a good awareness of children's individual needs, including their family background. Parents comment that they feel well-supported as a family. Staff supervise children well and engage with them in their play. They teach them ways to share resources and help other children, which helps children learn to behave and socialise well. Staff promote healthy lifestyles consistently. They provide access to the outside area in all weathers. They encourage children to think about the weather and what clothing they will need, for example, coats and wellington boots as it starts to rain. Staff encourage children to dress themselves, which builds their self-help skills before they move on to school. They support children's emotional development as they prepare them for these moves. For example, they invite reception teachers to the pre-school, and visit the schools with the children, to help them become familiar with it. They share their assessments with the teachers to help to provide good continuity in their learning.

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

The manager has a strong understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager uses robust recruitment and vetting procedures to help to ensure that all staff working with the children are suitably checked. The manager works closely with children, staff and parent's' views to evaluate the quality of the provision. Parents comment that 'they love how transparent the pre-school is' allowing parents to join sessions and share their views and suggestions. This all helps the manager to identify areas for improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	140855
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	841445
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Jack in the Box Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 November 2011
Telephone number	01296 696404

Jack in the Box opened in 1994. The pre-school operates from the scout hut in Wendover, in Buckinghamshire. They open each weekday from 9am to 12pm, and from 12pm to 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, term time only. The pre-school employs seven staff. Of these, six staff members have appropriate early years qualifications to level 6.

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