

Ashford Play Nursery (Creche)

47 Albert Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8NU



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

24 March 2015

13 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
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		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not always make accurate assessments of children, therefore activities are not always beneficial for all babies and young toddlers and do not provide them with appropriate levels of challenge. This does not support all children to make good progress in their learning and development.
- The leadership team does not always effectively monitor the overall experiences for babies and young toddlers. This means staff do not always plan on-going developments within the crche to enhance children's learning.
- Staff encourage babies and toddlers to use paints and craft material. However, they do not always support them to explore these materials for themselves.

It has the following strengths

- Staff support children effectively, which helps them to settle in the crche and supports them when they move onto their next setting. Staff work with parents and the other settings to build a settling-in process based on toddlers' individual needs.
- Staff are warm and caring and form strong relationships with children. Staff complete routine care practices with their key children, which helps them to form good attachments.
- Staff support children in the daily routines well. They focus on using visual prompts and communicating with babies and toddlers to show what is going to happen now and next.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure all staff use accurate assessments to provide interesting activities that challenge children and help all children make good progress.

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

- encourage staff to provide age-appropriate creative experiences for babies and young toddlers, such as sensory play, to give them the opportunity to explore their own ideas
- develop the system for monitoring and tracking babies' and toddlers' progress to support their learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play, activities and interactions both inside and outside.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the supervisors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the general manager.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documentation including children's progress records, staff suitability records, and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to staff and parents.

Inspector

Sarah Taylor-Smith

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff make observations of babies' and young toddlers' learning, and complete routine tracking of their progress. However, these are not always accurate to meet the babies' and young toddlers' developing needs. This means staff provide activities that do not always provide a good level of challenge for all children. Staff complete arts and crafts activities with the babies and young toddlers, however they do not always encourage them to explore their own ideas at these times. This means babies and young toddlers do not always fully benefit from these experiences. Staff understand that the youngest babies need additional support for them to access activities in the same way as the younger toddlers do. They consider toddlers' individual needs when moving onto the next stage in their learning. For example, the setting is registered to take children over the age of two, in order to be flexible to support toddlers that may need more time with them.

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

Babies and toddlers access a range of resources in spacious and welcoming rooms. They use the garden in small groups to explore more physical activities. Staff work well with parents to ensure that babies' and young toddlers' daily routines are followed in the setting. As a result, babies and young toddlers are settled and show confidence to move freely. Staff are responsive to babies' and young toddlers' needs and respond quickly to meet their physical and emotional needs. For example, staff encourage them to feed themselves at mealtimes and offer them more if they shows signs of wanting more to eat or drink. Staff maintain accurate records to support children's well-being, such as medication forms. Staff monitor children taking medication to ensure it is used to best support children's health, and to share any concerns with parents.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Staff receive supervision and appraisals to support their practice. The manager identifies training needs from these, which supports staff in their developing practice. Staff complete safeguarding training, which they share with the team to develop their understanding of safeguarding procedures. This helps them to manage any concerns they may have about children's welfare. Staff complete risk assessments and daily checks of the environment to ensure that children remain safe. The staff team are well-qualified. However, they do not always use their knowledge effectively to enhance children's learning. The general manager has some systems in place to monitor children's learning through the review of learning journals. However, these do not identify weaknesses in experiences for babies and young children, or variations in staff practice, to drive improvement. Staff have links with some external agencies, such as speech and language therapists, to support babies and young children and they draw support from other settings in the chain.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY284642
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	837488
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	14
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Valerie Webb
Date of previous inspection	13 September 2010
Telephone number	01233 610292

Ashford Play Nursery (Crche) is one of four privately run nurseries and was registered in 2004. It is in Ashford and is open from 8.30am to 5.30pm all year round. It employs six staff, all of whom hold an early years qualification.

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