

Playdays

Caister Community Centre, Beach Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, NR30 5ER



Inspection date

24 March 2015

Previous inspection date

14 January 2010

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 provide a wide range of enjoyable activities which take account of children's interests and learning needs. They make regular observations of children's development and use this information to effectively challenge children. As a result, children make good progress and are well prepared for school.
- Staff give great importance to involving parents in their children's learning. They dedicate their time getting to know children and their families very well. This fosters good relationships and helps children settle and feel secure.
- Members of the management team positively welcome advice and support to help identify areas for further improvement. They review their practice and implement changes for the benefit of children.
- Parents think highly of the staff team. They appreciate both the quality of teaching and the caring approach they bring to their roles.
- Strong professional partnerships have been established with various agencies and settings involved in children's care, learning and development. This promotes consistency and continuity in their learning. Consequently, all children make good progress according to their individual capabilities and starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not use the local community well enough to enhance children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to explore and learn outdoors in the natural environment, for example, by visiting local parks or the beach more often.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main room of the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and staff.
- The inspector took the views of the parents into account.
- The inspector looked at children's development records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff, the provider's self-evaluation form and a range of other documentation

Inspector

Sharron Fogarty-Martin

Inspection findings

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

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this welcoming and friendly nursery. They initiate their own learning and staff join in to help them extend their ideas. For instance, a row of chairs is turned into a train ride to the 'zoo'. As a result, children show good levels of independence, curiosity and imagination. Staff make good use of planned events, such as open days, to share individual children's learning story development records with parents. In addition, daily diaries and regular newsletters help to ensure parents are involved in every aspect of their children's learning. The playroom walls are adorned with photographs of children participating in worthwhile fun play and learning. Staff use these pictures as prompts, to spark conversation with children about their previous learning and to introduce new words to expand their vocabulary. Staff use daily routines to broaden children's learning. For example, children count how many people are present and find the corresponding number. Children join in with familiar action rhymes and explore how to play different instruments.

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

Children confidently move around the nursery, behave well and learn to share and take turns because staff use consistent ways to help their understanding. Staff have established excellent relationships with parents and good links have been made with other early years professionals for the benefit of children's well-being. Children new to the nursery are given time to settle in to new routines. Staff are sensitive in their approach and support children's personal, social and emotional development effectively. They encourage children to develop positive relationships with community members. For instance, a visit from the local lifeboat men helped children understand how to keep themselves safe near water. However, staff do not make best use of other aspects of the community. They do not often visit the beach or parks to provide children with more opportunities to learn outdoors in the fresh air.

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

The management understands and meets its responsibilities well. Good procedures are in place to keep children safe from harm. For example, first-aid training for staff is kept current, and the premises are safe and secure at all times. All staff are fully aware of the procedures to follow should they be concerned about the welfare of a child in their care. Management has effective recruitment and vetting procedures in place, together with comprehensive induction procedures for new staff. This helps to ensure only the most suitable staff are employed. Systems for monitoring and evaluating the quality of children's learning are in place. Parents are able to share their views about the nursery through the use of regular questionnaires. Staff have wide range of qualifications, experience and expertise, all of which have a very positive impact on the quality of teaching and children's learning. Self-evaluation is embedded in practice and the strong staff team continually strives to improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339804
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	857189
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	17
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Angela Mary Ward
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2010
Telephone number	07914 716765

Playdays was registered in 2006. The setting is open each weekday during term time only, from 9am to 3.30pm. There are six members of staff, two of whom hold Qualified Teacher Status. The manager holds a level 4 childcare qualification. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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