

Hickory House Children's Day Nursery

Brickfield Farm, Main Road, Longfield, Dartford, Kent, DA3 7PJ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

9 April 2015

11 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- All children can explore and learn in highly stimulating environments. They have lots of opportunities to extend their play, indoors and outdoors.
- Staff promote children's independence very successfully in all activities. Children can choose what they play with and use, where they do it and how they develop it.
- Children settle in quickly and successfully. They receive excellent attention from their key person, who gives time to make sure children are happy and feel secure in the nursery.
- Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff are good role models and highly skilled at enabling children to manage their own feelings.
- Management and staff are dedicated to ensuring that all children progress well and to their full potential. They use an excellent monitoring process to swiftly identify and work on any areas for further development.
- The highly effective and efficient staff recruitment and retention process is successful in ensuring that all staff remain suitable for their roles and understand their responsibilities towards the teaching and caring of children.
- Staff demonstrate their teaching skills as they skilfully ask children challenging questions and encourage them to extend their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how to help children learn more about how to care for their environment by, for example, improving the use of recycled materials during children's play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of the teaching and its impact on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of staff members during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and sampled relevant documentation.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

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

The management and staff provide an exceptional range of learning opportunities. High staffing ratios mean that babies can often benefit from one-to-one attention, which ensures that they thrive exceptionally well. They enjoy exploring interactive toys and shape sorting resources. Children gain important skills to support their development, for example, through sharing and social interaction with other children. Children play uninterrupted for long periods and remain fully engaged and focused on their chosen activities. Staff are well qualified and have excellent teaching experience; they display an in-depth knowledge of how children learn and develop. They give children's communication and language development excellent attention. Staff ask challenging questions and always give children time to respond and listen carefully to them. Children show that they are very eager to learn and are developing essential skills for the next stage in their lives. Management and staff are successful in meeting each child's individual development and learning needs. Children make excellent progress in their learning and development.

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

Children get used to the environment and routine quickly, in their own time. Staff give children's welfare and well-being high priority. Children use the outdoor space all year round; they thoroughly enjoy the exciting and interesting experiences provided. Staff give excellent attention to children's continuing physical well-being. Exceptional staff deployment means that all children receive excellent support. Children can go to any member of staff to receive comfort and help when they need it. Staff are extremely good role models and display high respect for all children and colleagues. Children show that they feel valued, safe and secure. Staff are consistent in encouraging positive behaviour. Staff support children's independence and self-care skills exceptionally well. This fully promotes children's confidence and self-esteem.

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

Management and room leaders track every child's progress extremely effectively and provide focused support promptly. Management give staff's ongoing professional development excellent attention. The high numbers of well-qualified staff mean that children benefit from their excellent teaching skills, especially in the area of personal, social and emotional development. Staff have excellent partnerships with parents, agencies and other providers. This means that children receive outstanding and consistent care and learning. Managers and staff display a very high regard and understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children. Reflective and self-evaluation processes are extremely effective in ensuring that the nursery can continue to improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127245
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825403
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	154
Name of provider	Hickory House Children's Day Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2011
Telephone number	01474 703415

Hickory House Children's Day Nursery registered in 2000. It is located in Longfield, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm all year round, with the exception of public holidays. The nursery employs 35 members of staff. Of these, 27 hold appropriate early years qualifications and five members of staff are working towards a qualification.

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