

# Alphabets Day Nursery

15 York Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9EP



## Inspection date

9 April 2015

Previous inspection date

17 November 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children are happy because staff provide a caring and nurturing environment. Children form close attachments with their key person and other staff. This promotes children's emotional well-being positively.
- Staff encourage children to be independent. Children gain high levels of self-esteem in a safe environment, which consequently helps them to be ready to start school.
- Staff use effective systems to observe, assess and plan for children's individual learning, and help them move on to their next steps. As a result, children are making good progress.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are well established and effective. This means that children receive the support they require to meet their individual care and learning needs well.
- The leadership and management of the nursery are good. Management effectively implements robust procedures for recruitment of new staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not have easy access to a variety of resources to help develop their early writing skills outdoors.
- Staff sometimes ask questions that can only be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'. This means that they do not always support children to explore their ideas to support their critical thinking skills.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with further opportunities to develop early writing skills outdoors
- increase the use of a wider range of teaching strategies, for example, by encouraging staff to use questions to challenge and enhance children's critical thinking skills.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery.
- The inspector observed children during activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including children's records, planning and suitability checks.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

### Inspector

Nicola Jones

## Inspection findings

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

Staff have good knowledge of how to promote the learning and development of children. They plan a range of interesting and motivating activities, both indoors and outdoors, which take account of children's interests and support their learning needs. As a result, staff prepare children well for their eventual move to school. Resources in each room are stored at a low level so that children can easily access them. Staff introduce new vocabulary as they follow the children's lead. This encourages babies' awareness and confidence, and they begin to learn different words. For example, staff described what paint felt like on their hands. Children play cooperatively and form friendships. Staff play games to promote children's mathematical development. For example, they reinforced counting and positional language during a parachute game. Staff celebrate festivals with the children and teach them about diversity and the world around them.

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

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment where children feel safe and secure. Consequently, children happily explore the environment and make good use of the resources available, both indoors and outdoors. The settling-in process is flexible, meeting the needs of the children and families. Staff support children effectively through the transition process into the next age group within the nursery, and on to school. This means that children's emotional well-being is promoted well. Displays of children's work and photographs throughout the nursery make children feel valued and special. Children enjoy regular exercise, developing their physical skills. Older children develop a good understanding of the effects exercise has on their body. Children are offered meals that are healthy and nutritious. Consequently, children develop a good understanding of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Staff encourage babies to gain good control of their bodies, to move around their environment, and to feed themselves independently.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to protect children from harm, and effectively implement safeguarding procedures. All staff attend child protection training. As a result, staff have a thorough understanding of what to do if they are worried about a child in their care. The manager closely monitors educational programmes and children's records, ensuring that they identify children's needs clearly. Regular observations of staff practice enable the manager to provide clear feedback that helps staff to improve their practice further. Furthermore, the manager supports staff in regular supervision meetings, which supports professional development needs. Staff, parents and children contribute ideas to the self-evaluation process.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	156084
<b>Local authority</b>	Medway Towns
<b>Inspection number</b>	846747
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	30
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	52
<b>Name of provider</b>	Alphabets Day Nursery Partnership
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 November 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01634 868828

Alphabets Day Nursery registered in 2001. The nursery employs nine members of staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one staff member holds a qualification at level 2. The nursery is open from each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm all year round, apart from bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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