

Explorers Nursery

Priory Children's Centre, Cannon Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9SQ



Inspection date

13 April 2015

Previous inspection date

7 December 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- The staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding issues. They are confidently aware of the procedure to follow should they have child protection concerns. This helps to ensure that children are safe.
- The leadership and management team promotes staff professional development effectively, which ensures consistent good-quality care and teaching for children. Staff receive regular supervision to support and improve their practices.
- Self-evaluation includes the views of parents, staff and children. It encourages continuous improvements to children's learning and the nursery environment.
- Staff make good use of the outdoor area to provide a range of activities that promote children's all-round learning and development well.
- Staff meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities very well. Staff, parents and other professionals work together to support children and help close any gaps in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always strengthen children's knowledge of the wider world with accessible resources, such as books.
- Staff do not fully encourage parents to have a say in planning for children's next learning goals.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend and enhance children's knowledge of the wider world, similarities and differences through, for example, appropriate accessible resources, books and positive pictures
- encourage parents to participate further in planning for children's future goals, to enhance consistency in their learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint observation of a planned activity.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning throughout the inside and outside area.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff members at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff, safeguarding policies and procedures, and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

June Keeler

Inspection findings

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

Staff make good use of times when children are gathered into groups, such as snack time. They effectively promote children's communication and language development. Staff emphasise letter sounds and include mathematical language, such as numbers and sizes. Staff encourage children's independence effectively, for example, as they take the coat rack outside so that children can access their coats. Staff encourage children to pour their own drinks and cut up their bananas. Staff work with parents when children first start, to find out about their interests and stages of development. Staff routinely use information from observations to plan activities that are of interest and relevant to the children's learning needs. Children are confident, keen and eager participants in activities. They are curious and inquisitive, and thoroughly enjoy experiments. For example, children of different ages playing around the water tray identified that some containers filled more quickly than others did.

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

Children have regular access to the garden area. As a result, they receive plenty of fresh air and opportunities to be physically active outside. Staff also provide physical activities inside, such as tai chi. The staff reinforce good manners at mealtimes to provide children with good social skills, which help to prepare them well for school. There are warm and caring relationships evident between staff and children. Children demonstrate that they feel emotionally secure and physically safe as they move freely around the nursery, both indoors and outdoors. Children's behaviour is good because staff remind them of 'the golden rules'. As a result, children have a good understanding of the behaviour expectations and boundaries.

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

Leadership and management are strong and supportive to staff and parents. Management has a highly effective partnership with other professionals, which helps staff to obtain specialist support for children, when needed. The manager monitors planning and children's progress to ensure that there is a broad range of positive learning experiences for children. The leadership team understands its role and responsibility in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager regularly observes staff practices and makes changes to improve experiences for children. There is a well-qualified staff team and this positively impacts on how staff prepare children for school. The leadership and management team value staff training and make provision for this throughout the year. For example, with a course that strengthens their understanding of how children learn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY410681
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	822583
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	62
Name of provider	Thanet Early Years Project
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2010
Telephone number	01843587492

Explorers Nursery is one of four nurseries run by the Thanet Early Years Project. It registered in 2010 and operates from the Priory Children's Centre in Ramsgate, Kent. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. There are eight members of staff, all of whom have relevant early years qualifications. One member of staff holds a qualification at level 4, and six hold qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding for free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

