

Sunflower Nursery

Milton Mount Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NQ



Inspection date

23 April 2015

Previous inspection date

14 September 2009

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 welcoming, stimulating and well-organised environment that supports children's learning and development.
- Staff work well with parents to discuss how they can support children's progression within the nursery and at home.
- Staff consistently reinforce positive behaviours and praise children who make good choices. This ensures that children have a clear understanding of the nursery's expectations.
- Staff have created an environment that strongly supports the development of speech, language and literacy. This means that children are developing skills to ensure that they can be confident learners and communicators.
- Staff use a well-developed key person system to support children's well-being and independence.
- Staff actively seek support and guidance from outside agencies to ensure they support all children in reaching their full potential.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager monitors and evaluates practice on a daily basis. However, she does not fully consider how to include the views of parents in ongoing development plans.
- Staff do not consistently recognise opportunities to extend children's learning during small group activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance self-evaluation to ensure parents are fully involved in assessing the quality of the nursery to help drive improvement
- review staff's use of question techniques to ensure that small group activities consistently enhance and extend learning for all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed adult-led and child-led activities in both halls and the outside space.
- The Inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children about the nursery practice.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation including policies and children's records.
- The inspector spoke to the nursery's special educational needs coordinator about individual children's development and needs.

Inspector

Amanda Vidler

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn and develop across all areas of learning. Children have free access to explore well-resourced indoor and outdoor environments, which helps to develop their independence and confidence. Staff support children's development well by providing a mixture of adult-led and free play activities. This ensures that children are interested and challenged. Staff extend children's understanding of the world through activities and resources based on themes, such as 'people who help us'. Staff effectively observe children and make regular assessments, this ensures that staff recognise and meet children's individual needs. They work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure that children make progress.

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

Staff form and maintain strong bonds with the children in the safe and caring environment. These positive emotional attachments ensure that children are happy and confident to talk and play with staff and each other. Staff have a good understanding of the care needs of individual children and offer appropriate support, such as cuddles when required. Staff are excellent role models. They respond to what children say and offer encouragement for them to try new things. Children develop a good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy and safe. Staff support those children leaving for school well, offering well considered resources and activities to promote their skills. For example, the home corner becomes a school and the children practise dressing in school uniforms.

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

The manager has a strong understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She reviews potential risks and involves children in assessing aspects of their own safety. Staff have a confident understanding of how to keep children safe and to recognise and act on any child protection concerns. The manager uses her knowledge of the learning and development requirements to oversee effective practice. She ensures that the environment provides positive opportunities and monitors progress to ensure there are no gaps in children's learning. The manager supervises and supports staff well. She encourages staff to undertake regular training and further qualifications. This ensures staff have the knowledge, skills and experience to provide effective care and good practices. For example, the special educational needs coordinator is well-trained. She seeks further courses and advice from other professionals to ensure that she is able to support children's needs effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127658
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836251
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Jacqui Pickering
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2009
Telephone number	01474 369349

Sunflower Nursery registered in 1998, and is located in Gravesend, Kent. It is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 12pm and Tuesday and Friday from 9am until 4pm, term time only. The nursery employs eight members of staff and all but one have appropriate early years qualifications. The manager is qualified to level 4, four staff members are qualified to level 3 and the owner has a BA Degree in Childcare. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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