

# 1st Friends Day Nursery

Our Lady of Gillingham, 2a Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL



## Inspection date

30 March 2015

## Previous inspection date

6 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Since the last inspection, the nursery owners have worked exceptionally hard to improve the quality of the nursery. They have a very realistic view of what else is needed and have relevant plans in place to address this.
- All children make good progress in their learning and development, including those who speak English as an additional language, and those with identified additional needs. Staff know each of the children very well and clearly understand how to support their personal learning needs.
- Children are very happy within the nursery. They enjoy the company of the staff and form close relationships with them.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff plan an exciting range of activities based around children's interests. As a result, children enjoy their learning.
- Staff fully understand their role in protecting children and keeping them safe.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not take every opportunity to reflect on their practice and identify how to improve their knowledge and skills.
- The outside area is not yet used sufficiently well to extend children's learning.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enable staff to have more opportunities to reflect on their own practice and identify their future training needs
- make better use of the outside area to extend children's play and learning.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the support for children's learning, both inside and outside.
- The inspector talked to staff about how they plan for children's learning, and their understanding of the nursery's policies, especially those relating to keeping children safe.
- The inspector carried out three joint observations with one of the nursery owners.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including records of children's progress, confirmation that staff are suitable to work with children, first aid certificates and development plans for the nursery.
- The inspector talked to parents who were available on the day of inspection to seek their views.

## Inspector

Jo Caswell HMI

## Inspection findings

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

The nursery staff support children's learning and development well. The combined expertise of staff with higher level early years qualifications has a positive impact on the quality of teaching overall. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of how children learn. From this, they provide high quality, creative play experiences which interest children and capture their imagination. For example, staff have recently responded very well to children's interests in dinosaurs following a favourite story book. This has enabled the children to design and make their own large-scale model of a dinosaur, describing it as an 'allosaurus'. Creative, scientific and mathematical activities around the dinosaur theme have successfully sustained children's interests and motivation for learning. Provision to support babies' learning is also good. Staff are very experienced in supporting babies' development. They use practical activities, such as exploring the textures of sand, water and shaving foam to develop babies' sensory and language development. Staff are especially 'in-tune' with babies and clearly understand their non-verbal gestures and attempts at language and communication. Staff rightly recognise that work is needed in the outside area to further improve and enrich children's learning.

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

The care provided for children across the nursery is good. Staff are very attentive to children's needs. The key person system works well and this helps children to build trusting relationships with the staff who look after them each day. As a result, children approach staff confidently for cuddles and reassurance. This helps children to feel secure within the nursery and supports their learning and development. Daily routine activities are used well to encourage all children to develop good levels of confidence and independence. Consequently, older children gain the skills they need for starting school. Good systems are in place to keep children safe and to protect their welfare.

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

The senior leadership team has worked exceptionally hard since the last inspection. As a result, the rate of improvement has been good. Systems for monitoring the quality of staff practice are now fully embedded and the nursery owners and senior staff play an active role in recognising where practice needs to be improved. Good support from the local authority, and detailed action plans, have helped the nursery to identify the priority improvement areas, including the development of the outside area. Supervision meetings are used well to discuss children's safety, well-being and learning needs. However, these meetings are not yet used fully to allow staff to identify their own training. Until recently, leaders have rightly prioritised the training needed to improve the leadership of the nursery. Partnerships with parents, the local children's centre and schools are good.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY236227
<b>Local authority</b>	Medway Towns
<b>Inspection number</b>	1006794
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	65
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	54
<b>Name of provider</b>	1st Friends Day Nursery Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	6 May 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01634 578396

1st Friends Day Nursery registered in 2002. It operates from a former school building in Gillingham, Kent and is open from Monday to Friday, throughout the year from 7.00am to 6.00pm. There is a fully enclosed outside area. The nursery provides care for children aged from birth to five years. A holiday play scheme operates during school holidays for older children. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. It supports children who are learning English as an additional language, and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The nursery accepts funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are 54 children on roll in the early years age range. The nursery employs 11 members of staff, two of whom are the owners. All members of staff hold an appropriate early years qualification. One staff member holds Early Years Professional Status and another is a qualified Early Years Teacher.

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