

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Maidstone Ragstone House



Just Learning, Ragstone House, 48 College Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6SA

Inspection date	28 May 2015
Previous inspection date	20 April 2011

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

- Leaders and managers effectively promote children's care, welfare and learning. Managers regularly evaluate the quality of the nursery provision and continuously implement improvements for the benefit of children.
- Staff effectively assess children's progress in learning to help to ensure they are aware of the developmental stages for each child. This enables them to plan for their next steps in learning well.
- Children form secure bonds and strong relationships with the staff. As a result, children settle well and are happy in their learning.
- Management implements an effective programme of professional development to help staff improve their knowledge and practice. This includes regular training, an annual appraisal and regular supervision sessions. For example, recent training on comparing good and less effective activities supported staff's knowledge and is now helpful in informing their practice and planning.
- Staff are passionate and enthusiastic about their roles. They respond well to the individual needs of each child and reflect this in the range of activities they make available to promote children's development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always support children's recognition of numbers and early reading skills in the outdoor area.
- The organisation of lunchtime does not always allow staff to fully promote all opportunities for 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:

- improve the organisation of lunchtime to ensure all staff fully promote children's learning
- further promote children's opportunities to recognise numbers and letters in the outdoor area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled children's observations, planning and assessment records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, deputy manager, childcare and curriculum advisor, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and relevant policies and procedures.

Inspector

Ann Murray

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their knowledge of how children learn and their expertise in teaching to provide a broad range of learning opportunities. Children have free access to a wide range of resources that allow them to learn and progress well. Staff match activities well to the likes and dislikes of each child so that all children remain fully engaged in their learning. For example, staff planned a favoured modelling dough activity to encourage children's speaking and communication skills. Staff actively support children in their chosen play activities, for instance, they talked about the colours of the paint. Staff challenge children in all areas of learning and record their progress in learning journals which they share regularly with parents. Staff use skilful questioning to extend children's vocabulary and thinking. In this way they effectively promote children's communication and language skills. As a result, children make good progress and are prepared well for the next stage in their learning.

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

Staff provide a happy and welcoming environment for children. The managers have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. They implement highly effective arrangements to care for children and promote their well-being successfully. Staff promote children's independence well during daily routines. Children benefit from learning outdoors in all weathers, which helps promote their physical and emotional well-being. They settle well and show confidence in their understanding of behaviour and routines. Staff are deployed effectively and respond to children's individual needs quickly and efficiently. Management and staff value children's views and comments, which gives them the confidence to approach staff for support.

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

Staff have an extensive knowledge of how children learn and are fully aware of a range of learning styles. They are constantly looking for ways to promote learning for all children. Managers monitor the delivery of the educational programmes to ensure children are challenged, highly motivated and achieving well. They carefully evaluate priorities and identify future targets through action plans in order to continue to maintain staff practice. Management follows effective arrangements for recruiting staff and checking their ongoing suitability. Management and staff develop positive relationships with parents. They involve them in all aspects of children's care and learning, which contributes towards children feeling safe and secure. They liaise effectively with other early years settings when they share information about children's care and learning. This promotes consistency in children's development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127285
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840637
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	73
Name of provider	Just Learning Ltd
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2011
Telephone number	01622 663454

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Maidstone Ragstone House opened in 1998. It operates from a large house located near Maidstone town centre in Kent. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years old. The group opens all year round except bank holidays. Sessions are from 7am until 6.30pm. There are 17 members of staff who work with children, of whom 14 have an appropriate childcare qualification.

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