

High House Nursery Ltd

High House Farm, Mill End, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6PL



Inspection date

28 May 2015

Previous inspection date

3 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff are skilful in their interactions with children and use highly effective methods of teaching. As a result, children flourish and make excellent progress in their learning and development, according to their starting points and capabilities.
- The nursery provides a rich and vibrant learning environment where the children are highly stimulated. Varied and imaginative play experiences for children, especially outdoors, are delivered by staff who have excellent knowledge of the areas of learning and a clear understanding of how children learn.
- All staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping children form secure emotional attachments and provide an exceptionally strong base for children's developing independence and exploration.
- The management team show a strong focus and passionate drive to provide excellent care and learning for children. Staff are highly motivated and work exceptionally well together, creating a secure, safe and wonderful learning environment for children. Self-evaluation processes actively contribute to sustaining the highly effective provision and the outstanding service they provide.
- Partnerships with parents are exceptional and a particular strength at the setting. The nursery entirely values parents as partners and places the highest priority on working closely with all parents.
- Extremely effective safeguarding practices are implemented by staff to promote children's well-being and ensure their safety at all times. Comprehensive documentation, written policies and thorough procedures contribute to the safe and efficient management of the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend the already successful links with other early years providers in order to support continuity of learning and support children's transitions to other settings.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children and the provider's improvement plan.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a teaching activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and parents at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy a superb range of exciting child-initiated and adult-led activities. These provide children with excellent challenging opportunities to support their interests and encourage their natural curiosity to learn. Staff skilfully engage children, so that they are highly active learners. They have high expectations of themselves and the children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and English as an additional language. Teaching is inspirational as staff use their expert knowledge to meet children's needs by identifying specific starting points for each child. Staff maintain exemplary records on how well they are progressing. They carefully evaluate each activity to help identify and narrow any gaps in the children's learning. Consequently, all children thrive and make very good progress in their learning and development and are very well prepared for school. Talking is a consistently strong aspect of the nursery. Children successfully develop their spoken language as staff interact sensitively with the children at their own level, asking meaningful, open questions to skilfully challenge and extend their learning. Outdoors, children delight in discovering a ladybird and staff expertly use this opportunity to extend children's learning through discussion.

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

Children thrive in the extremely warm and welcoming environment. Their personal, social and emotional needs are exceedingly well met. Staff are highly skilled and ensure all children are helped to learn to the best of their ability. Behaviour is excellent, because all staff are positive role models. Their calm approach ensures that children feel highly valued. Excellent self-help skills are being developed as even young children are supported and encouraged to serve themselves and pour their own drinks at mealtimes. While outdoors, staff are deployed effectively to skilfully supervise children so they are safe, but also encourage them to safely take risks and be adventurous in their play. As a result of the exceptional care offered by staff, children learn independence skills which will support and promote their future learning and eventual move to school.

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

The management team demonstrate an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and their responsibility to promote the learning and development of all children. They regularly review the levels of planning and assessment to make sure these are consistent and display an accurate understanding of all children's skills, abilities and progress. In addition, the management team make thorough checks to help ensure all children are making rapid progress and close any identified gaps in their learning. The well-qualified staff have high expectations and are motivated exceptionally well by the manager and senior staff. There is a comprehensive and ongoing programme for staff supervision and development that underpins the excellent educational programme on offer. The nursery forms successful links with some local schools, however, there is scope to continue to extend these further in order to support children's future transitions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY269706
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	848537
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	101
Number of children on roll	142
Name of provider	High House Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	3 August 2011
Telephone number	01279 870898

High House Nursery Ltd was registered in 2003. The nursery employs 37 members of childcare staff. Of these, 22 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including two with Qualified Teacher Status, one of whom also has Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language and who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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