

Flying Start Nursery

The Lodge, Cemetery Road, GILLINGHAM, Dorset, SP8 4AZ



Inspection date

12 June 2015

Previous inspection date

5 May 2010

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 have a good knowledge of safeguarding and child protection procedures. This effectively promotes children's safety and well-being.
- Children are confident and independent learners. They are motivated and become engrossed in their play, supported by the well-balanced learning environment.
- Staff build close relationships with the children and know them well. Children quickly settle into the nursery and feel secure. This effectively supports their emotional development.
- Staff develop positive partnerships with parents and they work closely with them to support children's learning and development. This enables them to monitor the developmental progress of children.
- The quality of teaching is good due to the high level of well-qualified staff. Therefore, they develop engaging activities and make full use of the indoor and outdoor environments. This provides children with a good range of learning experiences.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not always offer younger children enough challenge in order to extend their learning during independent play.
- Children do not always have opportunities to freely access a wide variety of materials to support their creative development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for the younger children to be supported and challenged in their learning
- review the accessibility of resources that support children's creativity to enable children to freely access these.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and spoke to staff members and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector reviewed children's development records, including how staff assess children's learning.
- The inspector sampled staff files.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Teresa Newman

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 of child development and undertake accurate and detailed assessments of children's development. The manager regularly monitors children's progress and is quick to identify weaknesses. As a result, staff plan the environment to meet children's individual needs and interests. For example, children excitedly hunted for treasure and numbers that the pretend pirates had left in the sawdust outside. This effectively promotes children's mathematical skills, while strengthening their physical well-being. Staff are skilled in identifying when children have lost interest in an activity and quickly make changes to follow and extend their learning. Children investigate snails with magnifying glasses and staff provide books to support their understanding. Staff positively promote differences in languages and cultures within the environment. This helps to strengthen children's sense of belonging and understanding of the world. All children make good progress in their learning, including those who speak English as an additional language.

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

Children are happy, eager to learn and to help others. Young children understand how to share and take turns with their friends when sharing toys. Staff prepare older children well for school and children demonstrate all the necessary skills needed for their next stage in learning. Teachers from local schools welcome visits from the nursery staff and children. Children are encouraged to be independent and to help tidy up after themselves. Staff teach children to assess potential risks so that they learn about how to keep safe. For example, children carry out risk assessments of the outdoor play area. They take great pride in inspecting the outdoors, ticking off the areas that are safe for their friends to play in. Children behave well because they are engaged and learning is fun. Children freely access a good variety of toys and resources and they make independent choices about their play.

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

Self-evaluation is a continuous process. The staff team has a shared commitment towards delivering good-quality care and learning experiences. Management identifies areas for improvement based on children's assessment and monitors the impact of improvements they make. The recent development of the stage outside has had a positive impact on children's imaginative play and speech and language skills. Managers prioritise supervision and appraisal and use these systems to monitor the quality of practice, plan training and to drive improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344682
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	835082
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Elestar Services Limited Trading as Flying Start
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2010
Telephone number	01747 824998

Flying Start Nursery opened in its present location in 1998 and has been registered under the current ownership since 2006. The nursery is one of two nurseries operated by this provider and is situated in a converted house close to the centre of Gillingham, Dorset. The nursery is open each weekday from 9am until 3pm during term times. A holiday club is offered during school holidays, according to demand. The nursery is registered to receive government funding for early education. The nursery employs eight staff, seven of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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