

Schoolgate Nursery

Medway Block Potters Street School, Carters Mead, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9EU



Inspection date

19 June 2015

Previous inspection date

2 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The highly committed and experienced staff provide outstanding teaching for children. They meticulously gather information about children's current abilities and progress, using accurate observations and assessments. The diligent use of these enable staff to provide specific activities and resources that help all children reach their learning and development goals.
- Children are very happy at the nursery where they have formed exceptionally close and affectionate bonds with the staff and other children. Additionally, staff have established strong and supportive partnerships with all parents, carers and other adults in the children's lives. As a result, children blossom in this nursery.
- The established staff team attend regular training. This ensures that they are able to maintain the fresh and exciting learning opportunities provided. Additionally, the excellent use of resources and staff's creative ideas are shared as good practice information for other early years settings.
- Children who speak English as an additional language particularly thrive. This is due to the exceptionally dedicated staff who prioritise communication and value diversity. As a result, this is a vibrant and inclusive nursery where all children feel welcome.
- The well-deployed staff have an excellent understanding of the nursery's policies and their own individual responsibility to safeguard children. They ensure that children's safety is secured at all times and they successfully teach children how to identify and manage risks for themselves.
- Clear and constructive self-evaluation enables the manager to identify any areas for development in order to meet the ever changing needs of children and their families.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for more challenging physical activities for older and more able children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor areas of the nursery.
- The inspector observed and discussed staff practice with the manager.
- The inspector examined a selection of documentation including evidence of the suitability of staff, policies and procedures and children's information.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to at the time of the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Parker

Inspection findings

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

The exceptional teaching supports every child's progress. For example, children who speak English as an additional language are supported to expand their communication and language each day through play and conversation. Staff have knowledge of familiar and useful words in their home language. Children who need additional help to meet typical expectations for their age are making excellent progress. Staff work closely with each other, parents and other professionals to provide specific activities and individually tailored resources and routines for children. The staff have established effective links with local schools, which enables them to support children's readiness for full-time school. Staff share photographs of children's new classrooms and teachers with children. They also dress up in various school uniforms. This enhances their preparation for school. Children are confident, articulate and take pride in learning new words, such as 'metamorphosis', as they describe in detail the life cycle of butterflies. Children beam with pride when staff praise them for their efforts. This shows that the children are keen and eager learners.

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

Children are happy, confident and independent. They are invited to participate in daily whole group activities, such as circle time and singing. Younger children, who are not ready, are supported to join in at their own pace. This ensures that children develop confidence in learning in group situations. Children are exceptionally well safeguarded. All staff are alert to possible signs of abuse or neglect and have clear procedures to follow to protect children. Children use full-scale sized kitchen appliances and foods, which allows them to learn to handle real tools safely. The staff provide exceptional care practices. For example, the nursery does not have any steps to further develop children's physical skills. Therefore, staff provide a small wooden flight of stairs for children to practise these skills. Older children confidently climb and jump, showing the fantastic progress they have made from their starting points. However, there is scope to enhance their physical skills further through providing more challenge for older and more able children.

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

The manager and staff are inspirational and have an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have achieved high levels of respect from the local schools, children's centre and parents. Their excellent practice and awe inspiring use of resources has enabled them to maintain the delivery of high levels of achievement for children. As a result, Schoolgate Nursery children are recognised as displaying extremely good skills when they start full-time school. The manager conducts professional supervision for all staff; this ensures that the first-rate practice is maintained. Staff are supported in attaining further qualifications and attending training in order to maintain and further improve children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	403972
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	855447
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Anita Parrish
Date of previous inspection	2 July 2010
Telephone number	01279413574

Schoolgate Nursery was registered in 2001. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during the school term times. Sessions are from 8.30am until 12 noon and from 1pm until 3.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and it supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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