

The Garden Cottage Nursery

Church Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3EB



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

2 July 2015

15 September 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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Teaching is very good as staff give children the freedom and encouragement to explore exciting resources and activities linked to their interests, both indoors and outside.
- Staff know the children well and form strong bonds with each of them. This means children are happy, confident and develop a sense of security in their surroundings.
- Children are supported well during their move to school. Staff work closely with the local schools. Teachers visit the setting to observe children and talk to their key persons, who share information about children's individual preferences and development.
- Partnerships with parents are successful. As a result, they are involved, valued and well informed about the nursery and their children's learning and development.
- The manager and staff are vigilant about children's safety. They implement robust procedures to keep children safe and provide a very secure environment.
- The manager has carried out a major review of the staff's practice. As a result, the actions and recommendation raised at the last inspection have been successfully addressed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always best promote all children's critical thinking and expressive language skills.
- Occasionally, group times are not organised effectively to maintain the full attention of the youngest children. As a result, some children become restless and lose concentration.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff to give children sufficient time to be able to think and then answer questions during conversations
- enhance the organisation of larger group times so that staff effectively support younger children to focus, concentrate and stay fully engaged.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the nursery.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

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 and understanding of how children learn and develop. They plan a broad range of activities that offer challenge and motivate children to develop the skills they need in readiness for starting school. For example, children use chalk, paint, pencils and crayons to help develop their early writing skills. They take part in problem-solving tasks as they put the hopscotch numerals in the correct order. Staff gather information from parents to find out about children's abilities when they join the nursery. Then, they precisely assess children's progress at regular intervals to ensure that planned activities are linked to children's individual learning priorities. Staff involve all parents in reviewing their child's development. They also encourage parents to contribute photographs that show significant events or achievements from home. Staff introduce new vocabulary during activities, to extend children's communication and language, and use some effective questions during play. However, on occasions, staff are too quick to answer for children, rather than giving them time to process and formulate their own answers. This means children are not consistently encouraged to build on their rapidly developing critical and creative thinking skills.

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

Children understand about keeping themselves healthy. They help themselves to healthy drinks and snacks and choose to spend time outdoors in the fresh air. Children learn about important procedures that keep them safe. For example, children practise fire drills and learn they need to wear sunhats and apply sun lotion to protect their skin in hot weather. Behaviour is good. Children understand simple rules and are able to tell others how to behave correctly, by sharing and taking turns. Older children concentrate well and enjoy engaging in discussion. However, during larger group activities, staff expect younger children to maintain their attention for the same duration as older children and they quickly become restless and distracted.

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

The manager and staff fully understand their role in ensuring that the nursery meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They monitor the progress children make to ensure that this is consistently good and there are no gaps in learning. The views of staff, parents and children contribute towards the nursery's effective self-evaluation and plans for future development. The manager holds regular staff meetings and conducts staff reviews and appraisals. As a result, each staff member has a training plan to extend their qualifications and regularly update their knowledge of first aid, food hygiene and safeguarding. All staff are fully aware of their role in protecting children in their care. They are able to recognise types of abuse and can clearly say what they would do if they had a concern about a child in their care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY271444
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	991525
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Deborah Anne Law
Date of previous inspection	15 September 2014
Telephone number	01245 461649

The Garden Cottage Nursery was registered in 2003 and is privately run and managed. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Thursday, during school term times. Opening times are from 9am until 12pm on Monday and from 9am to 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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