

Ace Nursery

Grange Avenue, Derby, Derbyshire, DE23 8DH



Inspection date

16 April 2015

Previous inspection date

23 May 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

- Safeguarding procedures are robust. Staff attend regular training and know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child. Risks to children are minimised effectively, through detailed risk assessment procedures.
- Staff make regular assessments of children's learning, using the information gathered to plan challenging activities. All children make good progress given their varying starting abilities. Staff effectively meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children with English as an additional language.
- Children flourish, because staff provide good support for children's emotional well-being. Babies benefit from the calm, nurturing environment. Children form strong attachments and build close relationships with staff. As a result, children are happy to be at the nursery.
- The leadership team demonstrates a clear drive for improvement and ongoing development of the nursery and staff performance. There has been good progress in addressing weaknesses identified at the last inspection.
- The manager and her team have effective partnerships with parents. Regular meetings between the children's individual key person and parents allows them to share information about children's progress. As a result, parents' involvement in their children's learning is effective.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide a broad variety of resources to enable all children to make marks in different ways to promote their early writing skills.
- Occasionally, staff do not organise group activity times effectively, and some children become distracted.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer more opportunities for children to develop early writing skills, for example, by providing easy access to a variety of materials in both the indoor and outside areas, to promote mark making
- review the organisation of small group times to reduce background noise and distraction from other children, thereby enhancing children's listening skills and concentration.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She held a meeting with the manager of the provision.
- The inspector observed children at play, both inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the early years coordinator.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including planning, children's records, and evidence of the suitability of staff, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Janice Hughes

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 how children learn through play. They provide a broad range of learning opportunities and experiences. However, the choice of materials to encourage early writing skills is not always wide ranging. Therefore, the older children do not always have opportunities to fully extend their writing skills. Teaching is good. Staff interact well with children and question them effectively. This helps to develop children's ideas and encourages them to solve problems. Children are acquiring key skills for future learning. They are curious and motivated to learn. Children are developing mathematical skills well. Staff plan a variety of focused activities to enhance children's learning. However, these are not always carefully organised and some children are not fully engaged. Children become distracted and lose concentration due to the noise and interruptions by other children. As a result, children's concentration and listening skills are not fully promoted.

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

Staff understand and meet children's individual needs through effective settling-in periods. The good key-person system promotes children's personal, social and emotional development. Children behave well. They understand expectations and boundaries. Staff provide clear explanations to make children aware of possible dangers. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through discussion and reminders. Children gain in confidence and self-esteem because staff acknowledge their achievements. Staff effectively prepare children as they move through the nursery and on to school. Older children learn good independent skills. Children enjoy nutritious, healthy meals. Staff are aware of and meet individual children's dietary needs. They have good opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise and learn about healthy lifestyles.

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

The dedicated management team has a good understanding of its responsibilities. The learning and development requirements, and the safeguarding and welfare requirements are promoted effectively. The safety of the children is a high priority. Suitably vetted and qualified staff help to maintain the high standards. Staff are vigilant in their supervision of the children, and have a very good knowledge of child protection procedures. There are good systems to support staff professional development and performance. For example, they attend regular training, meetings, termly supervisions and annual appraisals. Management uses effective systems to review children's progress, so that they continue to make good progress. Consequently, gaps in children's achievements are narrowing and children are ready to move on to the next stage in their learning. The manager values partnerships with parents highly and supports families well. There is effective interaction with other professionals to enable staff to meet the needs of all children successfully, such as, collaboration on individual educational, play and health care plans.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206189
Local authority	Derby, City of
Inspection number	1010694
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	74
Number of children on roll	86
Name of provider	Austin Community Enterprise Limited
Date of previous inspection	23 May 2014
Telephone number	01332 774255

Ace Nursery registered in 1999. The nursery is open each week day, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, except for a week between Christmas and New Year and bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 15 members of staff most of whom all hold an appropriate early years qualification at levels 2 and 3.

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