

Rainbow Little Waltham

Tufnell Hall, The Street Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3NY



Inspection date

8 July 2015

Previous inspection date

4 March 2011

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

- The staff support children's mathematical development very well. They encourage children to count and compare the number of girls and boys attending. As they discuss how many children there are altogether, children learn how to add two numbers together.
- The key-person system is strong. Children new to the nursery are supported well and settle quickly. They rapidly develop a strong relationship with their key person and seek them out for support and reassurance.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure they are well informed and supported with their children's learning and well-being. Parents comment on how well their children are prepared for their move to school.
- The management and staff team continually reflect and evaluate their already good practice. They observe children as they play to help them evaluate the environment. Furthermore, they seek the views of parents through discussion and questionnaires. This demonstrates their commitment to continuous improvement.
- The manager is very aware of the strengths of the staff team, which means that the organisation of the nursery is good. Furthermore, she ensures staff attend relevant training to further enhance their skills, such as working with two-year-old children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the routine of the session is predominantly adult-led activity requiring children to be seated and persist at a task. This does not always suit some of the children as they become restless and lose interest.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of the daily sessions to offer children more balance between focused, adult-led activities and active, freely chosen play, as they develop their concentration and engagement in activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and on the adjacent playing field. She also spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed a selection of activities and discussed children's learning with the nursery manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

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

Staff demonstrate good teaching skills. They understand when to intervene in children's free play, and when to enable them to find out things independently. For example, as children play with small bricks they describe in detail what each part of their model does. Consequently, children become inquisitive learners who are well prepared for school. However, at times, the staff do not effectively organise the session to ensure children are active in their learning. For example, children move from the group time, to snack and then to practising for their end of year singing time. As a result, children are sitting down for a long period of time and become restless. Children enjoy looking at books and listening to stories. The younger children snuggle in to their key person and enjoy pointing to pictures in the book. The older children show they are beginning to understand differences between print and pictures. Observations and assessments are carried out regularly. Staff have an accurate understanding of what children can do and how to plan for the next steps in their learning. The effective sharing of information with parents and with other settings children attend ensures consistency in children's development.

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

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. All staff are good role models. They talk to children about what is right and wrong and praise children's positive behaviour. This supports their emotional well-being and develops high levels of self-esteem. Children play together well and firm, caring friendships are being made. This is because children have opportunities to play together and to solve their own problems. The staff provide a nutritious snack and encourage children to use safe knives to spread butter on their toast. As children help to look after the fruit growing in the garden, they gain an understanding of how healthy food grows. Children demonstrate their good physical skills as they take part in running and balancing races. They encourage each other by cheering and clapping and take pride in themselves as they tell the staff they were good at running.

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

Staff have a secure understanding of the safeguarding requirements. They have clear child protection procedures to follow and know who to contact if they have concerns about children in their care. Thorough recruitment and induction procedures ensure the staff working with the children are suitable. Staff are supported by a highly effective programme of training. They share the new knowledge they gain from training courses with each other. This means that they can further build on and support each other's knowledge and skills. Staff have effective and regular supervisions which enable them to continually improve their own already good practice. The monitoring of the range of activities and the tracking of children's progress are good and so practice across the nursery is consistent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY279472
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	861017
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Rainbow Little Waltham Limited
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2011
Telephone number	01245 362622

Rainbow Little Waltham was registered in 2004 and follows the Montessori approach to learning. The nursery employs six members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery opens during school term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 12.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9am to 3.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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