

Small Friends Children's Day Nursery

15 Rectory Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 2HA



Inspection date

22 July 2015

Previous inspection date

3 June 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 quality of teaching across the nursery is outstanding. Staff use every opportunity to enrich the curriculum. They provide an excellent range of high-quality learning experiences for children. As a result, children are highly motivated, eager to explore and develop a real thirst for learning.
- Children form exceptional relationships with the staff who care for them each day. This means children's individual needs are always met extremely well and children form strong attachments with staff.
- The management team have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. They ensure that all staff implement policies and safe working practices exceptionally well to support children's health, safety and well-being.
- Staff place great importance on making sure any gaps in children's learning are quickly identified. They work extremely well with parents and other professionals to promote children's learning needs through a shared approach. This commitment is reflected in the way all children, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, flourish during their time at the nursery.
- The highly qualified and experienced management team act as excellent role models. This has a positive impact on staff's practice and the quality of interaction to support children's learning throughout the nursery is exemplary.
- The management team is highly effective in driving improvement. Staff demonstrate an uncompromising commitment towards achieving excellence in all areas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to further enhance the nursery's immediate outdoor space, offering children even more opportunities to explore and learn in a natural environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and out.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team and looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sharron Fogarty-Martin

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their strong knowledge of how children learn and their expertise in teaching to provide an outstanding range of learning opportunities. Counting and number recognition form part of everyday routines. Staff make excellent use of the local environment as they teach children about the wider community. Children relish the opportunity to draw pictures of places of local interest as they join the celebrated 'art trail'. Children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted time to play and experiment, which ensures they remain engaged and focused on activities. They develop essential skills for future learning, asking questions and solving problems for themselves. This helps to ensure that they are very well prepared for moving to the next age group or starting school. Parents are well informed about every aspect of their child's learning. Planning and assessment arrangements are precise, sharply focused on every child's needs and shared frequently with all staff and parents to ensure every child makes rapid progress.

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

Exceptional care arrangements support children's health and well-being. New children settle quickly as staff support them extremely well allowing them time to explore the environment at their own pace. Children are very familiar with the staff and readily seek them out for comfort when needed. Children delight in testing out their physical skills on the wide variety of equipment. They eagerly clamber over the soft play shapes, taking suitable risks as they grow in confidence and develop coordination. Children's health is very well promoted as they participate in active learning, such as cookery, and consider which foods are better for them than others. Daily care practices, such as nappy changing, are carried out by the main carer, supporting children's emotional security and promoting their self-esteem well. Staff are extremely good role models and play alongside children helping the younger ones to understand how to share and take turns. Children form strong attachments with their peers and quickly understand what behaviour is acceptable.

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

Strong accountability across all levels of management and nursery staff underpins a shared commitment towards delivering exceptional standards. Highly effective arrangements are in place for recruiting new staff. Regular supervision and rigorous monitoring of staff's performance lead to a high level of consistency of practice. Leaders quickly recognise and tackle any development points through targeted training and support. The robust procedures for checking the quality of provision ensure that children receive a rich and challenging range of experiences. Incisive self-evaluation accurately identifies how the nursery can improve even further. Leaders have identified the need to introduce even more opportunities for children to explore with natural resources outside. The staff team works particularly well together, which means the organisation of the nursery is excellent. The nursery provides a relaxed, fun and homely environment where each child and their family is highly respected and valued.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY152460
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	869690
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	70
Name of provider	Louise Julie Parfett
Date of previous inspection	3 June 2010
Telephone number	01702 471235

Small Friends Children's Day Nursery is privately owned and opened in 2001. The nursery opens five days a week all year round and an after school club operates during school term times. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs nine childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The owner holds a level 8 qualification.

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