

Smarteez Neighbourhood Nursery

30 Meadway, Goldington, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 9HU



Inspection date

25 August 2015

Previous inspection date

29 November 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		Outstanding	1
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

- Children show high levels of concentration and quickly become engrossed in the excellent activities available to them. They choose where and with what they want to play and this helps them to quickly develop into independent learners.
- Children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are skilfully supported. Staff incorporate specialist services' targets into their educational plans for children. This helps all children make good progress towards the early learning goals.
- The dedicated staff are good, positive role models. They teach children well and have high expectations of them. Children's behaviour is outstanding. They play and learn together extremely well and effective friendships are being made.
- The key-person system is exceptionally strong. Children new to the nursery are supported very well and settle quickly. They rapidly develop a strong relationship with their key person and seek them out for support and reassurance.
- Staff have established exceptionally strong partnerships with parents. They go the extra mile in the support that they offer to them. Parents talk about the care and support staff provide for the whole family. Furthermore, they talk about how their children thrive because of the relationships they develop with staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff solve children's problems too readily, without giving them time to think of solutions for themselves.
- On occasion, staff miss opportunities to maximise children's learning through effective questioning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- allow children to have more time to think of solutions to problems they encounter
- consider ways to effectively ask questions to children in order to promote their learning to the highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and in the outside play areas and talked to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documents and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding procedure.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and of the nursery's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

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

Teaching and learning are good and, at times, outstanding. Children are eager to investigate and enjoy the many varied experiences on offer, especially outdoors. The motivated staff ensure the activities provided to children help to promote their all-round development. They encourage children to find the resources they need inside and take them outside if this is their preference. Staff support children well in their play, for example, they chat to them about what character they are pretending to be as they dress up. However, at times, staff miss some opportunities to help children to think about why things happen and how to solve problems for themselves. Staff use their wealth of knowledge and experience to precisely identify and assess children's starting points and ongoing development. This ensures all children make good progress, considering their starting points, in readiness for school.

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

Children are extremely happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. The qualified staff actively use the superb outside area to enhance children's enjoyment of the natural environment. Children sing to themselves as they use the swing and they seek out their friends to play with. The staff are meticulous in ensuring the snacks and meals they provide are healthy and meet the cultural and dietary needs of all children. They help children to develop skills in knowing how to keep themselves safe. They remind them how to use knives correctly and talk about the dangers of hot items as children play at being hairdressers. Staff find out in-depth information from parents about their children. This ensures they meet all their individual needs. Furthermore, the excellent transition procedures ensure these are reviewed as children move rooms. This enables children's next key person to have a thorough understanding of each child's ongoing development and needs.

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

The dedicated manager and motivated staff have an excellent knowledge of their responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager is a member of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This helps her to ensure staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. They use very effective systems to review the educational programme and to track the progress of both individual children and groups. The robust recruitment procedures ensure that the best possible staff are employed. Staff are supported by an effective programme of training and mentoring. The regular observations of staff teaching, supervisions and appraisals lead to a high level of consistency of practice. Staff are passionate to see children thrive and flourish. They demonstrate a determined drive to continuously develop their practice. They reflect on the needs of children in their community and make changes to the provision to help children have the best start in their education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	219214
Local authority	Bedford Borough
Inspection number	865787
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	63
Number of children on roll	78
Name of provider	Goldington Family Centre
Date of previous inspection	29 November 2011
Telephone number	01234 352202

Smarteez Neighbourhood Nursery was registered in 2003. The nursery employs 12 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery is open all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The nursery provides funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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