

# Catherine House Day Nursery

54 Billing Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 5DB



## Inspection date

26 October 2015

Previous inspection date

1 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The management team is committed and strives to provide good quality care and learning for all children, as shown by the improvements made following the last inspection. They carefully evaluate and monitor all aspects of nursery practice.
- Staff provide a good range of stimulating activities and experiences for children based on their assessments of their individual needs and interests. As a result, children have fun, are motivated to learn and make good progress.
- Children are happy and settled, and demonstrate that they feel safe and emotionally secure. This gives them a secure foundation from which to explore their environment and engage in their learning.
- Staff plan a good range of visits around the local community. They visit the library, participate in Forest school activities at the local park and visit elderly people in local residential care homes. This successfully broadens children's range of experiences and supports them to develop respect for others.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always give children enough time to consider the answers to questions and occasionally provide the answers themselves.
- Staff do not consistently make the most of all opportunities to extend children's understanding of numbers and simple calculation.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- provide children with even more opportunity to think critically during activities and discussions
- increase opportunities for children to count objects and understand simple calculation.

### **Inspection activities**

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the area manager and nursery manager. She 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 and took account of their views from documentation completed by them.

### **Inspector**

Ann Austen

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment and induction procedures are secure. Staff successfully minimise risks, including when on outings. Management and staff are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures to report concerns. Members of the management team and a number of staff hold appropriate qualifications. The manager regularly observes staff practice and staff benefit from a targeted programme of professional development. This effectively increases their knowledge and skills. The manager carefully monitors the range of activities provided and effectively reviews and tracks children's abilities and progress. This helps to ensure that staff are alert to the early signs that some children may need additional support.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's imaginary play experiences are enhanced because staff know when to leave children to explore and when to intervene to stimulate them and offer support. Children successfully create structures in the 'builder's yard' and construct a wooden pirate ship. They practise their balancing skills and squeal with excitement as they carefully walk along the plank, in fear of being eaten by an imaginary crocodile. Older children measure objects and are beginning to learn about the functions of a calculator. However, very occasionally, staff do not encourage children to count objects for themselves and the introduction of addition is sometimes too difficult for them to understand. Staff skilfully introduce new vocabulary as children play and use visual aids to support their communication skills. Older children communicate with confidence and enthusiastically sing rhymes. Younger children enjoy immersing their hands in paint and smelling the fragranced ice. Staff make good use of open-ended questions to help children to think and problem solve.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment and develop good relationships with parents and their children. Staff ensure that settling-in arrangements are flexible to meet children's individual needs. Each child has a detailed care plan tailored to their specific needs. Children are supported by the staff team to manage their feelings and behaviour, and to share and respect one another. They receive praise for their efforts and achievements, which very successfully promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Children learn about why it is important to eat a healthy diet and thoroughly enjoy being physically active in the fresh air. Older children notice that their heart beats faster after exercise. Children enjoy a good variety of well-balanced meals and snacks. They sit together to eat and mealtimes are successfully promoted as social occasions.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make consistently good progress, based on their starting points. They are developing the skills and aptitude to learn in preparation for the next stage of their learning, including school. Older children are supported to write and name letters of the alphabet.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	219903
<b>Local authority</b>	Northamptonshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1000860
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	55
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	29
<b>Name of provider</b>	Buds Limited
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	1 December 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01604 633109

Catherine House Day Nursery was registered in 1992. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one member of staff with Early Years Professional status and one member of staff with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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