

Pumpkins Day Nursery

49 Papenburg Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9NZ



Inspection date

27 November 2015

Previous inspection date

12 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff skilfully observe children's development and successfully use this information to plan for children's interests. They make sure activities are exciting and match children's learning needs. As a result, children are eager to learn and make good progress in their learning.
- The well-established staff team create a calm and nurturing environment. Children form close, caring relationships with their key person and they are settled and happy.
- Staff make their expectations for children's behaviour very clear. Children respond positively, doing what is asked of them and behave well. Effective teaching strategies mean children learn to manage their own behaviour. For instance, they use a sand timer to help to share and take turns.
- Staff give great importance to involving parents in every aspect of their child's learning. Parents speak highly of the staff team and find them very approachable. They are keen to emphasise the good quality of care and would not hesitate in recommending the nursery to others.
- Leadership is strong. The management team is dedicated to driving forward improvements. They consistently review the quality of the provision and involve parents and children in the process. Staff attend regular training courses and they are encouraged to gain higher-level qualifications. This all has a positive impact on the overall good quality of the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Evaluation of staff teaching practice is not always precise enough to help staff develop their skills to the highest level.
- On occasion, staff miss some opportunities to increase children's vocabulary to contribute to them making rapid development in their speaking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop and sharply focus the monitoring and evaluation of teaching so that staff practice is consistently of the highest standard
- use every opportunity to teach children new words to contribute to them making rapid progress in their speaking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all the nursery rooms and the outside area.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, staff and children.
- The inspector and the manager took part in a joint observation.
- The inspector took the views of parents into account.
- The inspector looked at children's development records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff, the provider's self-evaluation form and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Sharron Fogarty-Martin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff are fully aware of their responsibility to report any concerns about children's well-being and are confident in their ability to recognise child protection issues. Staff turnover is extremely low. However, there are robust procedures in place to recruit new staff when they are needed. Effective systems to review the educational programmes ensure that all children's needs are met. The management team provide staff with mentoring and coaching to help improve their practice. However, the monitoring of staff's teaching is not as sharply focused and robust in evaluating and identifying aspects that can be improved to reach an outstanding level. Staff effectively support children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs. They work in partnership with other professionals and this helps to ensure that all children achieve to the best of their abilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children and babies enjoy learning in this caring, welcoming nursery. The quality of teaching is good. Staff skilfully get involved in children's play to support their learning. They use challenging questions to encourage children to think and help them to develop their language skills. However, on occasion, staff do not always use effective strategies to enable children to clearly hear and learn new words to increase their vocabulary. Older children who join for the after school club immerse themselves in the wide range of activities on offer. They make cookies, learn how to grow vegetables and enjoy visits to local places of interest. Staff work in close partnership with parents to support each child's development. They gather detailed information before a child starts. This helps them clearly identify children's next steps in learning and supports continuity of care. Furthermore, staff encourage parents to continue children's learning at home as they send home ideas and resources.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Younger children feel nurtured because they have regular cuddles from their key person. Babies snuggle up to receive reassurance, and settle quickly to sleep peacefully and undisturbed when they feel tired. Daily care practices, such as nappy changing, are carried out by the main carer, supporting children's emotional security. Staff support children's physical development well. Children practise their climbing skills on the large fixed apparatus outside. Older children enjoy the freedom and fresh air as they play on the all-weather surface outside. Babies enjoy playing in the ball pit and have many opportunities to roll and to climb over and under appropriate resources. Children are very independent. They make their own choices, confidently serve themselves at snack times and find their belongings.

Outcomes for children are good

The excellent tracking of individual and groups of children's learning and development ensures all children make good progress. Staff teach the basics for mathematics and literacy very well. Parents and staff at local schools state how well prepared the children are for the next stage of their learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402106
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	855415
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	91
Name of provider	Gail Boland
Date of previous inspection	12 January 2010
Telephone number	01268 514415

Pumpkins Day Nursery is privately owned and opened in 1993. The nursery opens five days a week, all year round. Operating times are from 7.30am until 7pm. The nursery supports a small number of disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 11 staff, of whom eight, including the manager, hold appropriate early years or playwork qualifications.

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