

Report for Childcare on Domestic Premises

Inspection date

3 September 2015

Previous inspection date

6 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The setting provides a rich and vibrant learning environment where the children are highly stimulated. Varied and imaginative play experiences for children, especially outdoors, are delivered by staff who have excellent knowledge of the areas of learning and a clear understanding of how children learn.
- The manager shows a strong focus and passionate drive to provide excellent care and inspirational learning for children. Staff are highly motivated and work exceptionally well together, creating a secure, safe and wonderful learning environment for children. Self-evaluation processes actively contribute to sustaining the highly effective provision and the outstanding service they provide.
- Planning and assessment are carefully monitored to make sure these are consistent and reflect an accurate understanding of all children's skills, abilities and progress. In addition, a closely monitored tracking system helps to ensure all children are making rapid progress and that any identified gaps in their learning are closing.
- Partnerships with parents are exceptional and are a particular strength at the setting. The manager and staff team truly value parents as partners and place the highest priority on working closely with all parents.
- Children play a full role in their learning and have established very close relationships with all the staff. They show great confidence and independence as they explore the stimulating environment happily and with self-assurance.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to raise the knowledge and skills of staff to an even higher level, enhancing children's experiences and providing inspiration to others.

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 manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the setting's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager demonstrates an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding arrangements are effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of child protection issues due to regular training and are very confident about the procedures to follow if they have concerns. Staff fully understand their responsibilities to provide safe play environments for children and are vigilant and responsive at all times. The manager understands her responsibility to promote the learning and development of all children. The setting forms very successful links with local schools in order to support children's future move to school. Staff have high expectations and are motivated exceptionally well by the manager. There is an ongoing, comprehensive programme for staff development and supervision. Nevertheless, the manager and staff team aspire to improve their knowledge even further to benefit children in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is inspirational as staff use their expert knowledge to identify specific starting points for each child and maintain exemplary records on how well they are progressing. They carefully evaluate each activity to help identify and narrow any gaps in the children's learning. Consequently, all children thrive and make very good progress in their learning and development. Children arrive enthusiastically, ready to play and learn. They especially enjoy being outside where they investigate the natural world around them. Staff play alongside the children and, by skilfully questioning and commenting, are able to inspire children to experiment and try out new ideas. This is one of the many ways that staff support children's excellent development and provides a solid base for future learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children show great respect for each other and behave with consideration and thoughtfulness, especially with younger children. They show they have a good sense of feeling safe in their environment by confidently seeking out assistance or comfort from staff when they need it. The children's sense of belonging is fostered exceptionally well and their photographs, paintings and collage work are displayed all around the environment. As a result of the exceptional care offered by staff, children learn independence skills which will support and promote their future learning and the eventual move to school.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make very good progress in relation to their differing starting points. Younger children are learning to be independent, for example, by hanging their coats on pegs and pouring drinks at the snack table. Older children are extremely well prepared to take their first steps into school. Their literacy skills are developing well; they recognise the sounds that letters make and know how to read and write their own name. They avidly use their clipboards to mark off any hazards they may spot when they assist with the risk assessments in the garden. This contributes to their growing awareness of the written word having meaning while also learning to keep themselves safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY392980
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	849860
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2009
Telephone number	

Fidgety Fingers was registered in 2009 and operates from a self-contained annexe adjoining the owner's home in Hastingwood. The setting employs five members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It also supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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