

Unicorn Nursery - Princes End



131 High Street, Princes End, TIPTON, West Midlands, DY4 9JE

Inspection date

5 January 2016

Previous inspection date

18 June 2013

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

- A strong management team has been established since the last inspection and vast improvements have been made to the provision. The management team is supported well by committed staff who ensure that each child is well cared for, happy and safe.
- Staff provide a wide range of activities and resources that promote all areas of children's learning and development.
- Staff have formed strong partnerships with parents and keep them well informed about the progress their child is making. Parents are fully involved in their child's learning and development and are very complementary about the service provided.
- Disabled children and those with special educational needs are supported well through the strong partnerships established with external agencies.
- Children are happy and settled. They have good relationships with staff. This helps to promote their well-being and develop their confidence and independence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always adjust their teaching accordingly when working with groups of children of mixed ages and abilities.
- Staff have not fully established a regular exchange of information with other settings that children attend. As a result, they are not always able to build effectively on the learning that takes place elsewhere.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make sure the teaching during group activities always takes into account the different ages and stages of development of the children taking part
- develop a more effective strategy to promote two-way communication with staff at other early years settings children attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to the management team, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journey progress records, the planning documentation, evidence of self-evaluation and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Trisha Turney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider and staff work hard to reflect on every aspect of the provision for children's welfare, learning and development. Staff access support from a network of professionals, including local authority advisors. This has helped highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery. As a result, their priorities for improvement are well targeted to bring about sustained improvement. The quality of the provision has been enhanced. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff understand their responsibility to keep children safe. Most staff are qualified and the provider ensures they attend regular training to enhance their professional development further. Children's progress is monitored well. Staff use effective observation, assessment and planning systems to help children achieve their next steps in learning. Any gaps in learning are swiftly identified and addressed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children's characteristics and abilities well. They create an inviting, reassuring environment for all children's learning. Staff in the baby room give babies a secure base from which they can explore. They provide them with a range of sensory activities. Staff use props and pictures to engage children in songs and rhymes. Babies investigate and discover different textures as they play in sand and water. Staff provide a variety of materials to help develop early writing skills. Children thoroughly enjoy making marks and pictures using paint and pens. Staff working with older children place a strong focus on helping them to learn about numbers and letter sounds. They encourage children to count, measure and identify letters during everyday activities. For example, staff encourage them to clap as they count how many children are in nursery. Staff use simple sign language to help children develop early communication skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a warm and welcoming environment for children. Children's behaviour is good as staff support them well to understand the nursery rules and routines. They learn to play cooperatively, share and take turns. They enjoy taking on small responsibilities, such as helping to tidy away the toys at the end of the session. A dedicated nursery cook provides children with a variety of nutritious snacks and meals. Staff sit with older children to eat their lunchtime meal. They use this time effectively to encourage children to talk about healthy food and drinks. Children confidently name a range of vegetables when staff ask them to name some healthy foods. In the outdoor play area, children have plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They learn to balance on bicycles and to build using blocks and large foam shapes.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of their learning and development. Targeted support is provided for children who join the setting with starting points below those expected for their age. As a result, any gaps in learning are closing and most children leave the setting working within their typical age range. Children are well prepared for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457677
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	1028471
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Unicorn Nursery (Princes End) Limited
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2013
Telephone number	0121 557 0011

Unicorn Nursery - Princes End was registered in 2012. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. One member of staff and the owner hold Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for the week between Christmas and New Year and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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