

The Funhouse Pre-School

Janet Duke Primary School, Markhams Chase, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5LS



Inspection date	13 January 2016
Previous inspection date	6 March 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

- Children are confident, happy and really enjoy their time in the pre-school, where learning is based on their individual interests and seasonal topics.
- Teaching is effective. Children make good progress towards the early learning goals. The provision for disabled children and those with special educational needs is good.
- Staff form strong partnerships with parents and other professionals. Parents speak highly of the staff and value the quality of care and education provided.
- Staff work very closely with the host school and other receiving schools to ensure that children are well prepared for the move on to school.
- Good quality interactions with staff and well-established routines help children become secure. Children adopt good hygiene practices and successfully address their personal needs.
- There is a strong commitment to improving the provision. The self-evaluation is accurate and action plans ensure that the pre-school continues to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Systems for monitoring children's progress do not always reflect the full range of groups of children attending the pre-school.
- On occasions, staff do not always encourage children to listen to others and await their turn to speak.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the systems for monitoring progress to reflect all of the specific groups of children attending the pre-school
- provide more opportunities for children to learn to take turns in speaking and listening 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 pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Vicky Turner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers work well together to create an enthusiastic and effective staff team that is committed to improving outcomes for children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are alert and ensure that children are kept safe at all times. Vetting procedures are robust to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. There are good systems for monitoring staff performance and supervision which contribute well to continuous professional development. Staff are keen to improve their skills and take every opportunity to attend relevant training. This qualifies them to address children's varying needs with confidence. Managers have started to use assessment information to swiftly identify and address any gaps in the learning of some groups of children. However, the process does not yet reflect all of the specific groups represented in the pre-school. Children attend regularly and benefit from an engaging curriculum which provides rich learning opportunities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe and assess individual children regularly and use this information to plan interesting, challenging activities that engage all children. Good quality resources are effectively used to support learning. Children are highly motivated, curious and eager to learn. They approach all activities with confidence. Staff promote children's language and communication skills well. Group discussion times provide good opportunities for purposeful conversations with staff. Children thoroughly enjoy a well presented, interactive puppet session, used to reinforce safe practices in the outdoor play area. They eagerly engage with the puppets and have great fun. However, they do not always wait their turn to contribute their ideas and sometimes miss out on what other children have to offer. Children take books home to share with their families. They explore sound using various percussion instruments which accompany songs as they sing. Parents are highly engaged in their children's learning. They contribute to their child's initial assessment and support their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thrive well in this stimulating, safe learning environment. They share strong emotional bonds with the staff and know it is a safe place to be. Staff set very clear boundaries. Children behave well. They understand that there are boundaries, and are learning to self-assess their own behaviour. The spacious, well-designed outdoor space provides good opportunities for daily physical activity and for developing other areas of learning. Children ride wheeled toys and apply their knowledge of road safety successfully. They are taught how to keep themselves safe and use equipment safely. Children are learning good social skills. They learn about people and communities. This is supported by a wide range of resources which promotes diversity.

Outcomes for children are good

Children achieve well. They are developing key skills to prepare them for the next stage in their learning. They are emotionally well prepared for the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY428418
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1028132
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	Funhouse Preschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 March 2013
Telephone number	01268450587

The Funhouse Pre-School was registered in 2011. The pre-school employs nine members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 11.45am and 12.30pm until 3.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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