

The Hall Road Kindergarten



The 4th Rochford Scout Headquarters, Church Walk Hall Road, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1NN

Inspection date	11 February 2016
Previous inspection date	11 October 2012

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

- The partnerships with parents and other professionals are good. Staff are eager to use and share relevant information to promote a consistent programme of learning and to aid children's smooth transition to school.
- Children play in a safe and secure environment. Staff are vigilant and carry out effective checks to ensure hazards are identified and swift action is taken.
- Children's curiosity and intrigue are promoted very well. Staff place a strong emphasis on providing explorative play, both indoors and outdoors.
- Children's positive behaviour is strongly praised. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for their actions through explanations and the golden rules.
- Disabled children and those with special educational needs are given positive support to meet their individual needs. Staff use input and guidance from outside agencies and work closely with parents to provide early intervention for any delays in children's development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always promote children's mathematical development to the same high level as other areas of learning.
- Staff do not consistently make best use of assessment information to build on children's interests and reflect the different ways in which children prefer to learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's interest in mathematical concepts to the same level as the other areas of learning
- enhance staff's understanding and identification of how children learn best and provide further experiences for children that reflect and build on their individual interests.

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

Inspector

Claire Parnell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff work closely to provide consistent and continuous practices. The committed team dedicates time to further training and improvements based on information from parents in order to support individual children's needs. They make good use of support networks to gain new ideas. Supervision and training for staff are effective. Staff strive to improve their practices based on the observations managers have made of their performance. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a confident knowledge of procedures to follow if child protection concerns arise about the welfare of a child in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children thoroughly enjoy experimenting with natural materials. Staff provide a wealth of resources to encourage digging, looking for worms and viewing bugs and insects with a magnifying glass. Children use their senses to learn what is around them. Staff provide them with 'big ears' to support their listening skills for the birds, cars, trains and people's voices. However, staff show less emphasis towards extending children's understanding of mathematical concepts through everyday situation. Staff take a sensitive approach to encouraging children to take part in group activities. They understand that children have varying levels of concentration and focus. They ensure that all children actively participate even if they are not sitting with the rest of the group. The informative assessment programme effectively tracks children's progress and provides purposeful experiences to promote learning in all areas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn about keeping themselves safe. They know not to run inside and give clear explanations that they can hurt themselves. They show great empathy towards others and play well by sharing and taking turns. Children develop high levels of independence and confidence, well aware of the familiar environment and staff. They feel secure, settle well and develop confident relationships with each other. Staff encourage children's self-help skills and highly promote their physical well-being. They put on coats and Wellington boots for outdoor play, help prepare snacks and find additional resources to extend their play. Children understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They talk about healthy foods to eat, help themselves to drinks and make choices about playing outside. Staff encourage effective hygiene procedures such as washing hands and wiping noses through clear explanations.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make rapid progress, taking into consideration their starting points and their stage of development. Children's individual needs are provided for, especially when gaps in their progress are identified. Staff strive to close these gaps before children move on to their next stage in learning. Children are highly motivated and eager to learn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	204058
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1028023
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	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Janet Anne Osborne
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2012
Telephone number	01702 531067

The Hall Road Kindergarten was registered in 1993. The kindergarten employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 4 and the remaining staff are qualified to level 3. The kindergarten opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are Monday and Friday 9.15am until 12.15pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.15am until 2.45pm. The kindergarten provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The kindergarten provides support for disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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