

Tom Thumb Nursery

The New Pavillion, Sutherland Memorial Park, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7JU



Inspection date

7 March 2016

Previous inspection date

24 March 2015

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

- Since the last inspection, the newly appointed manager and staff team have made changes to the nursery that have significantly improved the quality of the provision. The manager coaches and supports staff to improve teaching practice effectively overall.
- Children make good progress, including children whose starting points are typically lower than expected when they first start at the nursery. Staff use their good knowledge of children's individual needs to seek intervention from other agencies where there are gaps in children's learning and development to help them catch up.
- Staff support children's emotional needs effectively. For example, parents say that they are happy with the way that the staff nurture their children, especially when they first start at the nursery. Children are happy, settled and well behaved. They form secure emotional attachments with staff and other children.
- Staff work in partnership with parents to involve them in children's learning and development effectively. Staff provide parents with good information, for example, that explains how parents can support children's literacy development at home. Children enjoy taking books home to read with their parents.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always organise the outdoor activities effectively. The space is sometimes restricted so children cannot practise good physical control and coordination.
- Staff do not always consider ways to support children to use their imagination further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider the organisation of outdoor activities, to ensure children can freely and confidently experiment with different ways of moving in the space available
- encourage children to use their ideas to extend their imaginations further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision in the outdoor play area.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked a sample of documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and from documentation.

Inspector

Catherine Greenwood

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures to protect children's welfare. She has reviewed the recruitment and ongoing procedures to ensure the continued suitability of staff. The manager uses self-evaluation effectively to improve practice, for example, all required documentation is now easily accessible. She promotes staff's professional development effectively. For example, two unqualified staff are currently completing childcare qualifications, and staff have used ideas gained from training to improve the provision for children who are learning English as an additional language. For instance, staff provide visual aids that help children to understand care routines and to develop their independence. The manager monitors children's development and ensures staff promote children's ongoing learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly observe and assess children's progress and complete detailed summaries of their development, which they share with parents. Staff plan a good range of activities that motivate and challenge children effectively. When children play in water, staff teach them about sinking and floating and to predict and notice items that absorb water more than others do. Staff initiate games that promote children's memory and participation successfully. For example, they encourage children to find and match picture cards and to throw wet tea bags onto large pieces of paper to create patterns.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide positive role models and promote children's well-being. They develop children's self-confidence and social skills effectively. Staff encourage children to try things for themselves and support their independence and good health, for example, during snack. Staff teach children how to keep themselves safe. For example, they invite the emergency services to visit the nursery to talk to children about their roles. Staff help children learn to respect others' cultures and beliefs. For example, they encourage children to dance to Brazilian music and make patterns using rice for Diwali celebrations.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for their future learning and starting school. For example, they enjoy making marks in shaving foam and learn to write their names. They talk confidently with staff, for example, while listening to stories. Children investigate the natural world when they use magnifying glasses to look at spiders' webs and develop technology skills, for instance, when they take photographs of the webs. Children learn about the seasons and growth, while blowing the seeds off dandelion heads. Children are independent; for example, they spread cheese on crackers and help themselves to fresh fruits, raw vegetables and breadsticks for snack.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY341248
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1010970
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 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	A B Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	24 March 2015
Telephone number	07983989179

Tom Thumb Nursery School registered in 2006 and is one of two privately owned groups. It is located in Burpham, Guildford. The nursery operates Monday to Friday during term times, from 9.15am until 12.15pm, extending to 1.15pm if children stay for lunch. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs six members of staff; of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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