

Merry Poppets Nursery Ltd

Flitwick Road, Westoning, BEDFORD, MK45 5AA



Inspection date

7 March 2016

Previous inspection date

31 October 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

- Since the last inspection, the management team has continued to make improvements to their service. A commitment to training and effective staff performance management is evident. Staff demonstrate confident teaching and a good understanding of children's individual needs.
- Strong partnership working with parents contributes to children having their specific needs met. Detailed information is gathered when children start attending and ongoing discussion and sharing of information from home results in children receiving a consistent approach to their care and learning.
- Children are safe in this nursery. Staff maintain close supervision during activities, sleeping children are regularly checked. Staff complete training in safeguarding and have a secure understanding of how to ensure children's welfare.
- Children are gradually supported to be independent. Staff build on children's confidence and skills, which helps to prepare them for moving to the next age group in the nursery and the eventual move on to school.
- Teaching is good. Staff in all the group rooms provide positive and enthusiastic interactions with the children. Staff show a genuine interest in what children are doing and are skilled in making suggestions to help children extend their vocabulary and interest.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff plan group times that enable children to reflect on what they have done, sometimes the activity is too long and does not fully capture the interest of all children who are taking part.
- On occasion, staff do not support children enough to represent their own ideas and act out their interests.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- devise even better ways to support and consolidate children's learning and interest during group activities
- provide even more opportunities for children to express their ideas and 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 deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with both the nursery managers, the deputy and with four members of staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Thorough checking of staff's suitability at the recruitment stage and on an ongoing basis helps to ensure that children are safe. Management and staff work as a supportive team. They have a reflective approach to their work and evaluate their activity, making adjustments to ensure children's needs continue to be met. Regular supervision, when staff discuss their key children and their plans for continued professional development, has a clear impact on their confidence and the quality of teaching they provide. Detailed information is gathered about individual children's progress. This is shared with their parents and used to plan for children's next steps in learning. Information is collated about the progress that is made by different groups of children, including those who receive specific funding. Management uses this information effectively to ensure that each child receives suitable support to enable them to make as much progress as possible.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children throughout the nursery enjoy staff's encouraging and positive involvement in their play. Babies and toddlers giggle with delight as the staff sing to them. Older toddlers explore activities with small vehicles and numbers, and pre-school children are excited to plant beans in the garden. However, occasionally, children's interest in their favourite characters is not fully valued by the staff. Staff place high priority on promoting children's communication and language. They use lots of positive facial expressions, eye contact and ask questions during play that encourages children to think about what they are doing. However, from time to time during group activities some children begin to lose interest and become distracted.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children in each of the group rooms show they feel a sense of belonging in the nursery. They approach staff for comfort and reassurance as they need it and children are confident to move around between their chosen activities. Babies settle to sleep readily and wake happily. Staff are good role models for the children. They clearly explain the expectations for behaviour and treat children gently and with respect. Children are well supported; they develop an attachment to the staff. They share and take turns. All children enjoy daily outside play which promotes their physical skills and well-being. The nursery provides varied meals and snacks which take account of children's specific dietary needs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are supported effectively by the staff to develop confidence and self-esteem. Staff make sure they listen to the children, involve them in the planning and evaluation of activities and show them care and respect. This results in children feeling a sense of belonging and well-being in the nursery. They are confident to ask staff for assistance as they need it, they make friends and are confident to select their own resources and activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434658
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	1028295
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	83
Number of children on roll	79
Name of provider	Merry Poppets Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	31 October 2013
Telephone number	01525 718241

Merry Poppets Nursery Ltd was registered in 2011. It is part of a limited company which has three other early years provisions. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

