

Chestnut@Arden House

198 Longbridge Road, Barking, Essex, IG11 8SY



Inspection date	20 April 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager and staff have a good understanding of how to implement the welfare requirements, which promotes children's good health, safety and security effectively.
- Children learn through a variety of interesting adult-led and self-chosen activities that enable them to progress well.
- Staff provide a particularly strong programme for the expressive arts and design. Children thoroughly enjoy exploring colour, texture and sound. They use their imaginations and express their ideas eagerly in a variety of ways.
- The manager uses a varied range of methods that support the professional development of staff. For example, she makes valuable use of external advisors' guidance to improve the outcomes for children.
- There are good systems to support children with specific needs. The staff liaise closely with parents, and external agencies, to ensure that all children's needs are well planned for and met.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to further challenge and extend children's mathematical ideas and skills.
- There are insufficient opportunities for children to investigate how and why things work.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of all opportunities to develop children's problem-solving skills
- increase children's understanding of why things happen and how things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between the staff and children as they engaged in activities.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and sampled a range of documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with staff at appropriate times and spoke to some parents.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. There are comprehensive systems to check that all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff make sure that children play in a safe and secure environment. They are vigilant and use risk assessments effectively to reduce potential hazards. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of child protection issues and clearly know what action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. All required records are kept confidentially and maintained well. The manager drives improvements in the nursery provision. She uses a range of methods to gather the views of staff and parents to review practice, and makes positive changes. The manager and staff have useful partnerships with parents, which supports children's learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly monitor children's development through consistent assessments to ensure that each child's learning needs are met effectively. They encourage children to play an active part in their learning, for instance, as they help themselves independently to stimulating resources and make choices about their play. All children, including those with specific needs, receive good support to extend their communication and language skills. For example, staff speak clearly, repeat words and phrases, and introduce new words during play. Staff help children to progress well in their early literacy and mathematical development. Children have good opportunities to learn about others in their local community, and about living creatures.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work effectively with parents so that the move from home to nursery takes account of the children's individual needs. Children settle quickly and are happy to attend the nursery. Children understand the importance of behaving well. They know the nursery rules, and learn to take turns and share toys. Staff promote consistently good care for children. For example, they follow babies' individual routines for eating and sleeping to support their feelings of security. Staff promote children's understanding of healthy lifestyles well, and children benefit immensely from a healthy diet. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene. They have daily opportunities for outdoor play, and particularly enjoy practising their ball skills and developing skills to climb and balance.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next stage in their development and for school. Toddlers learn how to handle books and begin to join in with actions associated with rhymes. Children are interested in books and enjoy stories. Babies develop their coordination well through handling equipment, and older children learn to write.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482620
Local authority	Barking & Dagenham
Inspection number	996970
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	132
Name of provider	Chestnut Nursery Schools Limited
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02085916788

Chestnut@Arden House registered in 2014. It is located in Barking, in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am until 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. It is funded to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 15 staff of whom all but one hold early years qualifications. One staff member holds a qualification at level 5 and one at level 2, while the remainder hold qualifications at level 3.

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