

Highfield Day Nursery

Station Road, Braughing, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG11 2PB



Inspection date

26 August 2016

Previous inspection date

25 September 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 provider effectively uses the most well qualified and experienced staff to develop and strengthen the skills of other members of the team. For example, the qualified teacher oversees the effectiveness of the curriculum, the quality of teaching and children's progress in learning.
- Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve. They provide challenging, precisely targeted learning experiences to ensure all children make good progress from their individual starting points.
- Children love to listen to stories and take part in rhymes and songs. Staff make these fun and engaging, which helps children develop valuable skills and motivation to learn.
- Children are happy, confident and secure in a homely environment in which they relate very positively to others. Staff are good role models for children's behaviour and use effective strategies to help them be respectful and understand expectations.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents appreciate the ways that staff help children settle in and the guidance offered about aspects of their children's development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Babies do not have a broad range of objects, media and materials freely available to support their natural desire to explore and discover.
- On occasions, staff do not reinforce children's growing awareness of best hygiene practices when serving fruit at snack time.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to reinforce children's growing awareness of best hygiene practices
- extend the range of media, materials and objects available to babies to build on their natural curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them.

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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Hilary Preece

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff receive training updates to keep their knowledge of how to recognise and respond to signs of abuse up to date. Staffing arrangements mean that there is always one designated person responsible for child protection and at least one qualified first-aider on duty at all times. The manager follows safe recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitably vetted and equipped with the knowledge and skills to carry out their roles effectively. The small team works very closely together and staff are well supported by the manager through regular supervision meetings. Staff continually reflect on and evaluate their practice to adapt it to the specific needs of the children attending.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is consistently strong. The qualified teacher skilfully models effective teaching strategies to other team members and monitors their teaching practice. Staff carefully phrase questions to build on what children already know and enjoy. They are adept at capturing children's attention and interest when leading activities and supporting children's play. Older children are motivated by well planned, focused activities that help develop listening skills and interest in numbers, letters, sounds and early writing. Babies and younger children enjoy relaxed routines and exploring interactive toys and some sensory resources. Staff have a good knowledge of their key children and use their frequent observations and assessments to plan precise next steps in learning. Evidence of children's learning and development is frequently shared with, and easily accessible to, parents at any time.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather valuable information from parents initially to find out about children's personal routines and needs. Children separate from their parents and carers with relative ease and quickly become confident and independent. They are encouraged to feed themselves and regularly practise dressing and undressing in preparation for school. The nursery has developed effective links with teachers at the schools that children move on to. They work well together to share information and prepare children emotionally for change. The nursery promotes children's good health through providing children with regular exercise and fresh air. Children benefit from eating nutritious, freshly prepared meals and snacks that safely take account of any dietary needs and preferences.

Outcomes for children are good

All children work comfortably within the range of development typical for their age, with some excelling in literacy in particular. Children leave the setting with positive attitudes and an enthusiasm for learning. Children who have special educational needs, those who speak English as an additional language and those for whom the setting receives additional funding receive targeted support from nursery staff and external professionals. This supports their good progress and helps to close any achievement gaps.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY273312
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1059662
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	30
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Christine Michelle Raniere
Registered person unique reference number	RP908478
Date of previous inspection	25 September 2012
Telephone number	01920 822 002

Highfield Day Nursery was registered in 2003. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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