

Diamonds Day Nursery

The Old Convent, Alvaston Street, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0PA



Inspection date	16 September 2016
Previous inspection date	22 February 2016

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

- The manager sets high expectations for children's learning and the quality of provision. Staff share her ambition and work hard to achieve it. The nursery has improved strongly since the previous inspection.
- Staff have a good understanding of how babies and young children learn and develop. They apply their knowledge and skills well. Children enjoy a good range of motivating and engaging activities.
- Children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress from their individual starting points during their time in the nursery. They acquire the skills and understanding they need to support their future learning and are well prepared for starting school.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff are positive role models for children to learn from. Staff help children to settle in quickly and to build their confidence and self-assurance.
- Parents appreciate the care staff provide. They know their children's key person well. They receive useful information on their children's achievements and guidance to support their learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Leaders do not fully compare the progress made by different groups of children in order to confirm that no group is disadvantaged and that every group is supported as effectively as possible.
- Staff do not consistently make sharp use of assessments to plan as precisely as possible so that children rapidly achieve the next steps in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- compare the progress made by different groups of children to identify any variations and further strengthen their progress and achievement
- make even better use of assessment information to plan very precisely and help children make rapid progress.

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 joint observations with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. He looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Andrew Clark

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and her staff acted promptly to secure good improvements since the last inspection. The manager has helped staff to take advantage of good training opportunities to increase their knowledge of teaching strategies. This has had a positive impact on the teaching of communication skills and on staff's ability to challenge children's learning more effectively. There are rigorous systems to improve staff's performance and support their professional development. The manager gathers the views of parents, children and staff to evaluate the nursery's effectiveness and to plan for future improvement. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are robust procedures to help ensure staff's suitability to care for children. Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and free from harm. They apply their knowledge to create a secure and welcoming learning environment.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Key persons know their children well. They gather a good range of information from parents to help children make a secure start to their learning. Assessments of what children know and can do are accurate. Staff help children to listen well to others and to develop their speaking and listening skills well. For example, they talk purposefully to children throughout activities and help them to extend their vocabulary and remember new words and phrases. They help children to develop their curiosity and interest in the world around them. For example, they present children with many different shapes and textures to explore in their messy and creative play. Staff work well with parents to help them support their children's learning at home. They provide good opportunities for families to borrow books and toys, for example.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's social skills well. They help them to learn to take turns, share their toys and other resources and to work collaboratively. For example, children work together to place their toy dinosaurs in order by size and shape. Staff promote children's knowledge and appreciation of healthy lifestyles well. Children try new foods, serve themselves and use cutlery with minimal assistance. Babies quickly develop the confidence to explore their surroundings and to mix with others. Children are polite and courteous and learn to respect others' needs and points of view. They develop an awareness of different cultures and lifestyles.

Outcomes for children are good

Children's expressive and communication skills are developed well. Children talk about their favourite characters in stories they know well. Older children learn to read simple words and phrases and progress to form letters and numbers accurately. For example, they read their names on their place mats at lunchtime and staff help them write about the frogs in the garden or favourite stories. Children's mathematical skills are developed effectively. For example, they talk about how full or empty objects are in their sand play and count the number of sides on different shapes. Children learn about the world around them when they explore their sensory garden or plant seeds.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY421215
Local authority	Derby, City of
Inspection number	1040734
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 - 8
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	61
Name of registered person	Christina Hanrahan
Registered person unique reference number	RP515856
Date of previous inspection	22 February 2016
Telephone number	01332755455

Diamonds Day Nursery was registered in 2011. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for a week between Christmas and New Year and on bank holidays. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one at level 6. The nursery receives funding for early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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