

The Ark Nursery

St Martins Centre, Ellerbeck, Stoneydelph, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 4JA



Inspection date	29 September 2016
Previous inspection date	3 December 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 motivated manager clearly understands the value of continuous quality improvement. As a consequence, there are robust systems in place to manage any staff under performance and the quality of teaching is consistently good.
- Staff provide a rich range of activities for children to freely explore and investigate, along with good opportunities for children to actively learn.
- Staff place a high priority on consulting and sharing information with parents during the initial home visit made by the staff. Parents are kept very well informed about their children's progress and there are ample opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's learning.
- Staff place a clear focus on fostering close relationships with children and promoting their well-being. Consequently, children are happy and show a real sense of belonging.
- There are robust systems in place in relation to staff recruitment to ensure they are suitable and the nursery environment is safe and secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Systems to monitor practice and staff performance management systems are not highly effective in raising the quality of teaching and care to an exceptional level.
- During some activities, staff do not meticulously plan and focus precisely on those children identified as being in need of support to help them make the very best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance further the monitoring systems in place and raise the quality of teaching and experiences on offer to an exceptional level
- place a sharper focus on raising further the achievement of those children who have been identified as being in need of support.

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 carried out a joint observation and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and looked at written feedback provided by parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager is supported well by the committee members and there are well-focused improvement plans in place to raise practice further. There is an effective cycle of staff supervision and training in place to ensure teaching across the nursery is consistently good. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff are suitably trained in child protection issues and safeguarding children is given good priority. Parents are regularly consulted and they are impressed with the commitment the staff show in getting to know their children. Parents have ample opportunities to get involved in supporting their children's learning at home and in nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff clearly understand the importance of using an effective observation and assessment system to help them challenge children's learning. Staff know their assigned key children well and use children's next steps in learning to help them plan fun and challenging activities. Small-group work is used well by staff to support children's communication and language skills and help them learn to share and take turns. For example, children practise these skills when being encouraged to consider the name of the instruments they have chosen and the sound they make. Staff increase children's vocabulary well by introducing and reinforcing new words, such as high, low, loud and quiet. The indoor and outdoor spaces are used well by staff for children to be imaginative, active and creative learners. For example, children thoroughly enjoy adopting roles in the pretend builder's yard. They are keen to use their senses as they explore the dough and paint.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Promoting children's personal, social and emotional development is given high priority. The assigned key-person system is used effectively to help staff build a good rapport with parents and their child during the home visit. Staff use the Me and my family board to help children talk about their families and to respect any differences in the way they live. The routine is organised with the needs of children in mind. For example, children are enthusiastic about being the daily helper as they organise the snack and take on extra responsibility. Staff teach children about how to stay healthy. For example, children decide which foods are healthy for their teeth as they stick them onto their pre-cut paper teeth. Children are well behaved, easily follow instructions and learn how to keep safe. For example, children know when the music plays it is time to tidy away the activities and know how to keep safe on the stairs.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including two-years-olds receiving additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children who speak English as an additional language catch up quickly due to strong partnership working with parents. Children confidently use their first language, alongside English. Children show a fondness for literacy and mathematical activities and acquire the key skills required in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218256
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1059433
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	The Ark Nursery Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP520133
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2012
Telephone number	01827 897993

The Ark Nursery opened in 1992. It is run by a committee and operates from St Martin's Church Centre in Stoneydelph, Tamworth, Staffordshire. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 9.15am until 3.30pm and a lunch club operates from 11.45am until 1pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs five members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, three hold a qualification at level 3 and one is unqualified.

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