

Elephant Moon Day Nursery Cheltenham

Ivanhoe House, St. James Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3QG



Inspection date	13 October 2016
Previous inspection date	7 February 2013

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children's care and well-being are supported very well. Strong partnerships with parents and other settings children attend are established and this regular exchange of information contributes significantly to the well-being of the children.
- There is a strong partnership with parents. Children are very happy and form strong bonds with the staff and their key person. Children are welcomed with warmth and affection and settle quickly when they arrive, particularly the newest of children.
- Children have access to a large variety of high-quality resources, which means their needs and interests are met and they are well motivated to learn.
- Staff ensure that safeguarding welfare needs are met well and place a strong emphasis on keeping children healthy and safe.
- Staff actively support inclusion as they acknowledge and value differences, ensuring that their plans take account of children's individual needs. Children's cultures are respected and shared with other children.
- Leaders strive to continually improve the nursery through effective evaluation of what it offers. This benefits the experiences children have in the nursery and ensures they are well prepared for their eventual move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to strengthen children's understanding of letters and sounds, in particular in children's self chosen play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use every opportunity to strengthen children's understanding of letters and sounds.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with the children in play activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at the available resources.
- The inspector had discussions with the joint managers about leadership and management, safeguarding and how they evaluate practice.
- The inspector had discussions with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector sampled and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The staff team works very cohesively together. Regular staff meetings and opportunities for self-evaluation and reflection help the team to continue to improve outcomes for all children, particularly since the previous inspection. There is a very clear drive and vision towards improving the provision through professional development. The well-qualified, professional staff constantly develop their good practice through regular guidance and training. Leaders monitor the delivery of the educational programmes, planning and assessment of children's progress well. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are fully trained in child protection and carry out regular checks to ensure hazards are identified and minimised including on outings. Leaders follow safe recruitment procedures closely. Parents report they are extremely happy with the care and education provided at the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of how children learn. They complete daily observations and regular assessments of children in order to plan and implement their next learning aims. Staff plan exciting learning opportunities based on children's interests which engage, challenge and inspire children. Staff interactions are skilful and purposeful; they enhance children's thinking and support their growing vocabulary, ideas and skills through supportive play. For example, when children dig in soil to find worms staff encourage mathematics, and when staff retell a favourite story with small props they encourage talking and early reading skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

There is a very harmonious and friendly atmosphere in this nurturing nursery. Staff know children and their families extremely well and children and babies are very well cared for by a highly caring team. Children are welcomed with warmth and affection and settle quickly when they arrive, particularly the newest of children. Children learn about healthy lifestyles; they play outdoors in all weathers and have ample opportunity to develop their physical skills. For example, they move their bodies to music and learn about the effects of exercise. Children follow excellent hygiene practices and enjoy a healthy snack of fruit and vegetables, which they help to safely prepare.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their development and staff prepare them effectively for their future learning. For example, children are motivated to exchange information, ask questions and express their own ideas. They cooperate well with their peers and happily involve others in their play. For example, children play with dough and toothbrushes to create pretend fossils. Children learn to recognise numbers and their name.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY320769
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1061969
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 - 5
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	83
Name of registered person	SA Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527648
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2013
Telephone number	01242 577779

Elephant Moon Day Nursery registered in 2006. It operates from a building close to the centre of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year, except for bank holidays. There are 19 members of staff who work directly with the children. Of these, one holds early years professional status, four hold qualified teacher status, one holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 6, one at level 5, and nine other staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3.

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