

The Ark Daycare @ Andoversford

Andoversford Primary School, Gloucester Road, Andoversford, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 4HR



Inspection date	17 October 2016
Previous inspection date	4 March 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- There is an effective system to monitor the quality of teaching which has enabled the setting to maintain its good-quality service since the previous inspection. For example, the manager and staff reflect on practice and identify training to help develop their professional skills further.
- An effective key-person system is in place and staff know children well. They make good use of the regular observations, information about children's starting points and assessments, to identify children's next steps in learning.
- Staff support children's thinking skills well. For example, they give children time to develop their own play ideas and solve problems independently. Staff make timely interventions to enhance children's learning experiences.
- Children are confident and motivated to learn. They make good progress in their learning.
- Staff are positive role models and employ a range of strategies to manage children's behaviour successfully. Behaviour is good.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not include parents' views in the nursery's self-evaluation to identify further improvements.
- Staff do not consider fully the needs of the youngest children during large-group activities, to support their learning in the best possible way.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the self-evaluation process to take account of parents' views to help identify improvements and extend the good partnerships with parents even further
- review planning for large-group activities to more effectively consider how to include the best possible learning opportunities for the youngest children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the setting's documentation including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.

Inspector

Anne Clift

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work well in partnership with other settings children attend to maintain a continuous approach to their care and learning. They work closely with other professionals and ensure children who require additional help receive effective support so they all make good progress from their starting points. The manager and staff monitor children's development effectively and communicate regularly with parents about their children's progress. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of how to keep children safe. They have a clear understanding of the process to follow should they need to report any child protection concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff successfully encourage children's curiosity of the world in which they live. For example, children shine torches through a hole in a box to find hidden objects and explore the effects of light. Staff provide enjoyable activities that help children develop their mathematical understanding. For instance, they support children to count out items from a pirate's treasure chest and help them to recognise the matching number. Staff support children's communication and language development well. For example, staff learn key words and provide books and posters in children's home languages. Staff support children's early literacy skills well such as by providing writing opportunities in all areas and involving children as they share books.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Overall, staff provide a good range of resources and activities. They encourage children to make confident choices about what they want to play. Staff prioritise children's emotional development. For example, they use a range of successful strategies to support children through times of change. They also help children to explore their feelings such as being afraid of the dark. Staff support healthy lifestyles well. For example, they encourage parents to provide healthy lunchboxes and children have good opportunities to be physically active. Staff have created a culture and environment that celebrates diversity and ensures that everyone feels valued.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in preparation for their future learning and starting school. For example, they learn to recognise their names and those of their friends. They develop good social skills and play well together. Children's communication and language skills develop well and they express themselves clearly and confidently. For instance, during role play with a pirate ship, children developed their own story line and used expressive language, such as 'abandon ship' and 'where are all my crew?'

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY451627
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1062904
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	2 - 8
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	The Ark Cheltenham Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535164
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2013
Telephone number	01242 821213

The Ark @ Andoversford nursery registered in 2012. It operates from Andoversford, Gloucestershire. The nursery opens on Monday to Friday from 8am to 5.30pm for 49 weeks of the year. The setting employs five staff. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status and three have appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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