

Head Start Day Nursery

54 Abington Grove, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 4QU



Inspection date	27 October 2016
Previous inspection date	30 October 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

- Children are keen to join in with activities in this rich, challenging learning environment. They show high levels of curiosity, imagination and concentration. Confident in their own abilities, they are keen to share their knowledge and ideas through conversations.
- Staff know all the children well. They complete regular observations and assessments to identify what children can do and their next steps for learning. Staff use the information to effectively plan learning experiences that promote children's development.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. There are good two-way systems for sharing information about children's needs and achievements. Staff keep parents well informed about children's development. Parents are very positive about the nursery and the staff. They comment that their children are happy and make good progress.
- The nursery has effective leadership and management. There is a strong team spirit and everyone is motivated to continually improve the quality of the nursery. The manager monitors the quality of the provision well and identifies areas for further improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The progress of different groups of children is not consistently analysed in order to help promptly identify and address any gaps in achievement that may arise.
- The monitoring of staff performance is not sharply focused on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the consistency of the monitoring of the progress made by different groups of children to quickly identify any gaps that may emerge and help them all to make the best progress possible
- sharpen the focus on performance management so that staff have more opportunities to build on their practice, in order to raise the quality of teaching to outstanding.

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 manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, discussed self-evaluation and viewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ruth Patel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team and staff are well qualified and experienced. They use their knowledge and understanding to fully implement the requirements of the early years foundation stage. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if they are concerned that a child is at risk of harm. Policies and procedures are fully implemented and children's safety and well-being are given high priority. Staff receive support and guidance from the management team as they participate in meetings, supervision and appraisals.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff plan a wide range of purposeful activities across all areas of learning. They provide a range of interesting and stimulating resources for children to use. Children learn through active play and exploration. For example, they excitedly compare which car travels fastest as they push them through tubes and see how pretend bugs change when observed through magnifiers. Babies and toddlers have great fun joining in with singing and action rhymes and enjoy cuddling up to listen to stories. Staff place a high emphasis on supporting children's language and sensitively respond to the babbles that babies make in order to support their communication skills. Older children attempt to write their own name and focus on letters and sounds, demonstrating their emerging literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have created a very warm, nurturing setting. Children confidently enter the nursery and are quick to settle and start playing. The impact of the setting's focus on the social and emotional development of children is evident. Settling-in arrangements and transitions to the next rooms are well planned and facilitated according to the individual needs of the child. The key-person system is well established and effective. This helps to foster positive relationships with children and their parents. Children behave well and show kindness, concern and respect to others. Staff encourage children to share and take turns using strategies, such as timers. This helps children develop good personal and social skills. Children are encouraged to play outside. They are learning that fresh air and exercise can be fun as they kick balls, ride vehicles and use their pretend cooking skills in the mud kitchen.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident, self-assured and really enjoy learning. Staff promote equality and diversity well and children enjoy activities based around cultural festivals. Home learning is well supported through the use of strategies, such as taking home book bags. Children of all abilities, including those who speak English as an additional language, are developing the skills and attitudes needed to prepare them well for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365921
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1065084
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	56
Number of children on roll	117
Name of registered person	Head Start Day Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP908343
Date of previous inspection	30 October 2013
Telephone number	01604 791901

Head Start Day Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3 and 4. The manager holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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