

Abacus Nursery (SW) LTD

293 Cheddon Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 7BA



Inspection date

9 November 2016

Previous inspection date

4 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager is inspirational. She has extremely high expectations and a clear vision of how to achieve excellence. Staff, parents, children and other professionals are involved fully in this process. For example, after considering children's views, the manager ensures that activities stay out rather than being routinely tidied away. Children now become deeply involved in learning.
- A highly qualified staff team ensures that all children engage in exceptionally well-prepared activities that support their learning to the highest level. Staff continually extend children's understanding and skills. Children make rapid progress.
- Staff build excellent partnerships with parents, involving them in every part of children's learning. For example, staff organise parent workshops and parents share videos of what their children do and learn at home for staff to include in their planning.
- Children form exceptionally secure emotional bonds with staff. Staff help children to settle extremely well when they move between rooms. For example, staff use a soft toy to 'talk' about changes and a staff member moves to the new room with the children.
- Children display very high confidence and their behaviour is excellent. Staff expertly teach children to be sensitive to others. For example, they have introduced a 'friendship bench'. Children quickly notice when others sit on this bench and invite them to join in with their play, which supports all children's self-esteem exceptionally well.

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 how staff share information between them, to extend children's individual learning even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities throughout the nursery and in the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and met with her at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation, including policies and children's assessment records.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Petra Morgan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Since the last inspection, the owner has employed a new manager who provides strong guidance to support staff's professional expertise. For example, staff read the latest research and disseminate this new knowledge to other staff. This has led to staff using highly effective strategies to support children's language skills. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff thoroughly understand their responsibility to protect children and are very clear about what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. The manager monitors children's progress meticulously. She makes an accurate analysis and comparison of groups of children's progress and provides targeted support for individuals to close gaps in learning and help children to catch up quickly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff form highly successful relationships with other professionals, ensuring the best outcome possible for every child, including those who are learning English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs or disability. Staff track each child's progress very precisely and accurately identify their next steps in learning. The manager has plans to develop how staff share this information to extend children's learning even further. Staff provide an exceptional range of activities that engage children. They bring stories to life with actions and props, and repeat key words to help consolidate children's understanding. Staff are highly skilled at joining in with what children do to provide optimal challenge and enjoyment at all times. For example, they encourage children to recognise, create and describe patterns as they play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff nurture children's independence and sense of responsibility superbly throughout the day. For example, they encourage them to check the outdoor area to ensure it is safe for them to play. Staff are animated in their responses to children and give them plenty of praise and encouragement, which helps children to persist in activities, even when challenges occur. Staff support babies and younger children extremely well. For example, staff pay meticulous attention to following each child's home routines and provide stimulating resources to successfully support their development. Since the last inspection, the owner has enlarged and improved the outdoor area, providing children with many opportunities to be active and to extend and test their physical skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points. They have a zest for learning and are extremely motivated. Children recognise letter sounds as they write their names and they add groups of objects to find how many there are in total. They develop many valuable skills that they need for their next stage of learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY437978
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1059086
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	Abacus Nursery (SW) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531158
Date of previous inspection	4 October 2012
Telephone number	01823 288681

Abacus Nursery (SW) Ltd registered in 2004 and re-registered in 2011. It operates from a large detached house in the north of Taunton, Somerset. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 5.45pm, all year round except for bank holidays and between Christmas and New Year. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The owner employs 16 staff who work directly with the children. Of these, two hold a level 6 qualification, two hold a level 4 qualification and 12 hold a level 3 qualification.

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