

# Hopscotch Day Nursery

School Road, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex, CM15 0DH



## Inspection date

6 January 2017

Previous inspection date

31 March 2016

	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Although some improvements have been made since the last inspection, these have focused on meeting the safeguarding requirements rather than raising the quality of teaching across all the rooms in the nursery. Self-evaluation is not always effective enough to ensure that new areas identified for improvement are prioritised and promptly addressed.
- Management has not fully embedded new supervision processes, such as regular support, coaching and training, to improve staff practice. The quality of teaching and assessment of the three- and four-year-old children is not regularly monitored.
- The daily routines are not thoughtfully organised and this means three- and four-year-old children become distracted as they sit in social groups. Children also find it difficult to maintain concentration when there are interruptions in their play and learning.

### It has the following strengths

- Babies and children settle well into the nursery as they form friendly and supportive relationships and attachments with the key persons caring for them.
- Staff have worked hard to improve communication with parents. Information about children's individual next steps in learning is shared effectively. Parents are keen to express their satisfaction with the nursery. They say they appreciate the friendliness of the staff and the extra support they offer when families are experiencing difficulties in their lives.
- The nursery has close links with the host school. Children use school computer equipment to develop their knowledge about technology. Classroom teachers visit the nursery to help prepare the children for starting school.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

### To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	<b>Due Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ improve the support, coaching and training for staff so they increase their personal effectiveness and all children benefit from good quality adult interactions and guidance</li> </ul>	06/04/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ improve the quality of teaching and assessment of the three- and four-year-old children, and use information gained from the frequent checking of assessments to ensure that gaps in learning are quickly closed and children make good progress.</li> </ul>	06/04/2017

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

- improve the organisation of routines and help children adapt their behaviour in social situations, and maintain their attention and concentration during activities without interruption
- strengthen the systems for self-evaluation and make certain all aspects of the nursery are regularly evaluated, in order to continually target and prioritise new areas for improvement.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in the indoor and outdoor learning environments and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, deputy manager, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their written testimonials.

### Inspector

Patricia Champion

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement**

Current evaluation and monitoring arrangements are not yet fully effective. Staff supervision meetings and appraisals have now started. However, little time has passed to ensure that all staff increase their personal effectiveness. The new, well-qualified deputy has taken action to enhance the experiences for babies and toddlers. Renovations have begun in the playrooms and resources have been reviewed. This has resulted in some positive changes to the learning environment. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment procedures are rigorous and ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have completed an intensive programme of safeguarding and safety training since the last inspection. They know how to identify and respond to signs of abuse and neglect. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure the premises and garden remain safe.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement**

There are inconsistencies in teaching and assessments. Improvements have been made to help babies and toddlers make good progress. However, staff working with the three- and four-year-old children do not focus well enough on helping them to develop their social and emotional skills. The manager is not closely monitoring assessments or tracking the progress of these key groups of children. This means that any gaps in learning are not identified quickly enough. Children have access to a suitable range of activities and resources, and staff take into account the children's interests. Staff also introduce new experiences, such as learning to tell the time. However, staff sometimes follow routines too rigidly and children are interrupted and unable to persevere with activities of their own choosing. Children who have special educational needs or disabilities are closely supported as they play. Staff work well with parents and outside professionals to ensure children get the additional support they need.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement**

Children are happy and start to build friendships with each other. However, the nursery routines are not always efficiently organised. On occasions, children become restless and distracted while they sit in social groups. Also, staff do not always help children to understand the importance of social skills and good manners, or consider the impact that their behaviour has on others. Although there have been some significant staff changes, all babies and children now have a designated key person to support their needs. Children's health is promoted well. They regularly play in the fresh air and eat healthy snacks. Children show a sound understanding of personal hygiene routines.

### **Outcomes for children require improvement**

Babies and toddlers are making progress that is typical for their age. However, due to weaknesses in teaching and assessment, not all the three- and four-year-old children are making consistently good or better progress. Nonetheless, children are acquiring some key skills in readiness for school. They develop independence skills, enjoy practising their early reading skills and learn about letters and sounds. Children count and use numbers within their everyday play.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY248665
<b>Local authority</b>	Essex
<b>Inspection number</b>	1045428
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	1 - 10
<b>Total number of places</b>	35
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	63
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Hopscotch Day Nursery (Essex) Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP521261
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	31 March 2016
<b>Telephone number</b>	01277 372826

Hopscotch Day Nursery was registered in 2003 and is run by a limited company. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds early years professional status, eight hold an early years qualification at level 3 and one holds level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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