

Ashbourne Day Nurseries

20 Cushing Drive, Oxley Park, Milton Keynes, MK4 4TJ



Inspection date	17 January 2017
Previous inspection date	7 August 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

- Staff plan exciting learning experiences that build on children's existing skills and knowledge. They complete accurate assessments of children's learning and regularly share these with parents. Children are consistently engaged in their play and are motivated to learn. They make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children's behaviour is managed effectively. Staff offer praise and encouragement, and consistently promote positive behaviour. They support children to use good manners. Children learn that rules and boundaries are in place to keep them safe.
- The provider and management team show a strong drive towards improving the quality of the provision. They use their experience and knowledge effectively to ensure good standards of care and education are consistently maintained and staff performance is monitored. Strong team work is evident across the nursery and contributes positively to a targeted cycle of continuous improvement.
- Staff work closely with parents to maintain a wide knowledge of children's interests and achievements at home and in the nursery. Parents state they are extremely happy with the nursery and comment their children are safe and well looked after.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Outdoor play opportunities for the younger, less-mobile babies are not as well planned for and resourced as they are for the older children.
- At times, staff do not give children enough challenge to help them progress even more.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the play opportunities outdoors for the very youngest children to support those who prefer to learn outside as effectively as possible
- create more challenge for older children to help them to think and solve problems for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play during indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector looked at samples of children's assessment folders and records and discussed these with staff.
- The inspector spoke with the staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the provider, manager and area manager.
- The inspector conducted two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspection was unannounced.

Inspector

Melissa Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff supervise children well and understand what to do in the event of a concern about a child. Rigorous recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitable and have the skills to fulfil their roles. Staff use detailed risk assessments effectively to ensure that any hazards to children are quickly identified and removed. The management team monitors children's progress well and quickly identifies where it can offer further support. It uses feedback from other professionals and parents to continually improve its service. For example, staff have introduced a wider range of activities to support children's early writing skills in readiness for their move to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support older children's communication and language skills effectively. They engage them in group activities that encourage their listening and attention. For example, staff ask older children to think about what ingredients they might need to make play dough. They help them take turns and listen to what their friends say. Children spend time making new discoveries. For example, they investigate what happens when they fill up bottles during water play. Younger children show great delight in their creativity, such as when they make swirly patterns in flour or smear colourful paint with their hands. Staff are attentive and offer good support for babies' explorations as they take their first steps.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Key persons help children to settle easily and to build secure relationships. They are very attentive to children's care needs. For example, they ensure babies follow their home routines and support older children to dress appropriately for outdoor play. Staff help children adopt healthy lifestyles and they learn which foods are good for them. Children gain confidence in using new tools, such as how to cut up apples for their snack. Children develop an understanding of the world around them and take part in charity events, which raises their awareness of people less fortunate than themselves. Staff build children's self-esteem well. For example, children enjoy special tasks, such as filling up the water jug, so they can pour drinks for their friends. Children behave well and show consideration for other's feelings. All children are inquisitive and motivated to learn.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident, independent learners and make good progress from what they know and can already do. Older children develop their independence as they tidy away resources, serve food at mealtimes and put on their coats to go outdoors. Toddlers enjoy stories, listen with anticipation and predict what happens next. Babies enjoy traditional rhymes in their home language and build brick towers. Children are well equipped with the skills needed for future learning and their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY393354
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1081782
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	107
Number of children on roll	124
Name of registered person	Ashbourne Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901058
Date of previous inspection	7 August 2013
Telephone number	01908522223

Ashbourne Day Nurseries registered in 2009. It operates from a purpose-built building situated in Oxley Park, in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Rooms are based over two floors, with the first floor accessible by stairs. The nursery is open from 7.30am until 6pm on weekdays, excluding national holidays and the period between Christmas and New Year. A total of 24 members of staff are employed to work with the children. Of these, 18 staff currently hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least level 2. This includes two staff who hold qualified teacher status. The nursery provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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