

Strawberry Fields Day Nursery

37 Stuart Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4AD



Inspection date	9 February 2017
Previous inspection date	23 January 2014

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

- The manager and staff keep parents fully informed and provide an effective shared learning approach. For example, they share activity ideas with parents daily.
- Staff know children well. They support them to settle happily into play. Children have a positive level of emotional well-being and a good sense of belonging.
- Children are polite and behave well. For instance, they say 'please' and 'thank you' with no reminders and independently resolve minor conflicts with a level of maturity.
- There is a good range of opportunities to encourage children to gain skills that support their future learning. Children make good progress. For example, they learn mathematics, such as counting and understanding the value of money, as they play.
- All children have good opportunities to explore and investigate. For example, older children explore the shadows they make on overhead projectors, and babies enjoy feeling different textures such as oats and foam.
- Children develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. For example, children are keen to help prepare nutritiously balanced meals and snacks such as fruit kebabs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss some opportunities for children to speak their home language during their play.
- Staff do not consistently organise some group activities and routines effectively to encourage all children to be fully interested and engaged throughout.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language in play more effectively
- improve the organisation of some group activities and routines to ensure all children are fully engaged and interested.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at written documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager works closely with staff to effectively evaluate and review practice. For example, they observe and reflect on activities daily to improve future practice. This has a positive impact on children's learning outcomes. The manager monitors the quality of teaching and learning experiences well. She holds one-to-one support meetings with staff and provides them with constructive advice. The manager motivates and encourages staff to extend their current knowledge and skills. For example, staff attend beneficial training, such as understanding the different ways that children manage their feelings. The manager uses additional funding well to support children's individual learning needs. For instance, she purchases resources to further engage children in their development. All staff have a detailed understanding of the safeguarding procedures to follow and know how to confidently follow up welfare concerns. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff help support children to manage the move to school well. For example, they encourage children to take home the nursery toy 'Dave the Dragon' to talk to and 'write' down their thoughts about going to school, to share with their friends back at nursery. The manager and staff closely track and monitor children's progress. This helps them to highlight and provide individual support to narrow any gaps in development promptly. Staff skilfully build upon children's spontaneous play. For example, children enjoyed reading a book about balloons, and the staff extended their enjoyment by blowing up different balloons. Staff support children of all ages to develop their communication skills. For instance, older children use puppets to confidently make up their own stories, and staff use facial expressions and tones of voice to communicate effectively with babies.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show understanding and respect towards other people's similarities and differences. For example, they celebrate festivals from around the world and learn new skills as they cook foods from different countries. Staff help children to develop good physical skills. Older children climb and balance on large obstacles, such as crates and tyres, and babies explore smaller equipment, such as balance rockers.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who need extra support, make good progress in their learning. Children learn skills that prepare them well for school. They develop good early reading abilities. For example, they use simple written instructions and visual picture prompts to make their own dough. Children engage in activities that require a good level of maturity. For example, they participate in regular science experiments, such as making 'exploding volcanos'. Babies are well prepared for the next stages in their development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103731
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	1068351
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Strawberry Fields Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535184
Date of previous inspection	23 January 2014
Telephone number	01634 577282

Strawberry Fields Day Nursery registered in 1992. It is privately run and operates from a house in Gillingham, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 16 staff, of these, 14 hold relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including three staff who hold level 5 qualifications.

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