

Blackthorn Good Neighbours Nursery

Blackthorn Good Neighbours Nursery and Family Centre, Blackthorn Local Shops, NORTHAMPTON, NN3 8QH



Inspection date	9 February 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 leadership and management of the nursery are superb. Managers and staff aspire to continually enhance their already exceptional practice and provide high-class care and learning opportunities for all children.
- Children form secure emotional attachments from the start. Staff spend time getting to know children and their families during initial visits to their home. An excellent key-person system supports children to settle, and feel safe and confident within nursery.
- Staff provide an exciting and stimulating environment. Activities both inside and outdoors, inspire and capture children's natural curiosity to learn. Staff use their excellent knowledge of the children to plan and deliver a rich variety of activities that inspires and encourages them to make the best possible progress.
- The support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is exceptional. Partnerships with parents and professionals from specialist services are highly effective. Staff are extremely skilled in engaging children, building their confidence and maximising their learning.
- Self-evaluation is sharply focused and purposeful. Managers and staff actively seek the views and opinions of parents, children and other professionals and use these to drive continual improvement. Robust evaluation of staff's practice leads to very professional, well-focused development opportunities that result in highly effective teaching.
- Children show high levels of self-esteem and confidence. Behaviour is excellent. Staff praise and respect children's efforts and ideas, and encourage them to share their ideas with others by modelling what they have learnt through play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already excellent learning opportunities outdoors to further enhance sensory experiences through play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all of the play areas, the outside learning environment and conducted joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and the manager of the provision. She spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection when appropriate.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment and planning documentation, the setting's risk assessment and safety records.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working within the setting, the provider's evidence of self-evaluation and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tracey Boland

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers and staff strive for perfection and have high aspirations for all children. Rigorous reflection of the educational programme, the changing needs of the children and the effective use of additional funding for children ensures they receive excellent learning opportunities. As a result, children make superb progress. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are vigilant to the safety and welfare of all children and their families. Effective procedures for the recruitment of new staff, their ongoing professional development and the monitoring of practice ensures that staff are highly skilled, enthusiastic and motivated. Parents value highly the care provided and recognise the excellent support given to them and their children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have high aspirations for all children and what they can achieve. They encourage excellent communication with children, both verbally and through the use of visual cards and hand signals, to continually support and extend learning for all children. Meticulous observations and assessments of children's abilities enable staff to plan precisely for each child. Children learn the importance of listening to others and staff place great emphasis on everyone being valued and involved. Children's love of books is supported excellently. They delight in reading favourite stories, recalling what happens, drawing pictures that reflect the story and creating their own ending. Children have superb opportunities to build their awareness of numbers. For example, they follow recipes when making biscuits for the special people in their lives. They weigh and measure ingredients, recognise numbers and use various utensils to mix the ingredients and cut heart-shaped biscuits.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff develop a superb knowledge of the individual needs of children from the start. Time is spent gathering comprehensive information from parents about their child and incorporating their needs into the day. Children enjoy an excellent variety of freshly prepared, nutritious meals. Staff support children to serve their own food. They encourage them to make choices as they learn about foods that are good for their bodies. Children relish being active and spend lots of time outdoors. The managers and staff have identified the benefit of enhancing the outdoor learning even further through providing more opportunities for children to explore more sensory play. Children develop an excellent understanding of their own safety. For example, they learn the importance of wearing safety goggles, hard hats and high-visibility jackets when they play in the role play area that reflects a building site and construction area.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are making very high levels of progress from their varying starting points. Gaps in development are swiftly identified and skilfully addressed. As a result, children make superb progress and are gaining a wide range of skills in readiness for school when the time comes. Children gain an excellent awareness of people, families and communities beyond their own. They learn about similarities and differences and use verbal communication and sign language to express their needs and greet each other.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484188
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1003348
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	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Blackthorn Good Neighbours
Registered person unique reference number	RP530953
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01604411166

Blackthorn Good Neighbours Nursery was registered in 2015. The nursery operates from a converted building that is part of a family centre. The nursery is open on Monday to Friday from 8.15am until 3.30pm. The setting employs 12 staff. Of these, three are qualified between level 3 and level 6. Funded early education is provided for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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