

Sugarcane Nursery LTD- Nursery on the Heath



Marketing House, Hatfield Heath, Nr Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7EB

Inspection date

14 February 2017

Previous inspection date

27 September 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

- The secure entry system means that all visitors to the nursery can be seen by the manager and her staff before they open the door. Risk assessments of all areas used by children are ongoing. Parents report that their children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.
- Children demonstrate that they are developing good concentration and problem-solving skills. For example, they spend time working out how to best use a large stick to dig a hole in the mud. Showing their growing understanding of the world, they confidently tell staff that they are digging for a sunflower.
- Staff find out important information about children's care and learning needs before they start. This helps them to effectively meet each child's specific requirements and plan for their good progress from the outset.
- Children throughout the nursery develop strong bonds with staff. They show affection towards them as they spontaneously cuddle up or seek them out for support and comfort when needed. For example, when they are not able to climb down a step in the garden or feel upset.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to help older children learn about age-appropriate technology.
- Parents are not always offered further guidance or ideas about how to extend their child's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance older children's opportunities to learn about age-appropriate technology
- strengthen opportunities for sharing ideas and activities with parents, to further support and extend their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views through feedback provided.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff complete specialist training to ensure that they are aware of the signs of abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about children's welfare. The child protection policy is updated in line with changes and shared with parents. All relevant checks are undertaken on members of staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. The manager regularly monitors staff's practice. This helps her to effectively identify and put in place measures to support those who are underperforming. Staff and children's ideas and opinions are taken into account as part of self-evaluation. Parents talk about how they have shared their views with the manager through questionnaires and emails.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly observe each child's ongoing progress. They use their assessments of this information to effectively plan activities that meet children's individual learning needs. Staff work with parents to complete progress checks for children aged between two and three years. They engage older children in conversation about people that are important to them. The children spend time thinking through their ideas about how they show affection for someone they love. Staff support children's growing vocabulary emphasising the sounds of words. For example, they repeat the word shoe as they help a child put theirs back on. They also name fruit as they offer it at snack time. Older children demonstrate good literacy skills, using magnetic letters to spell out the beginning of their name. Babies respond well to staff using simple signs and gestures to communicate with them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well behaved. They play games that involve sharing and are encouraged to take turns in speaking. For example, children discuss what is happening in a story they are listening to. Staff help them to learn right from wrong and consistently provide praise to acknowledge their achievements. Children's health is promoted with nutritious food and regular opportunities for outdoor play. Children's independence is promoted. Older children serve their own food at mealtimes and babies are encouraged to feed themselves. Even the youngest children are supported to wash their own hands at appropriate times. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, they are aware that food dropped on the floor should not be eaten because it could 'make us sick'. Children are provided with a good range of opportunities to learn about and value their own and other cultures and communities.

Outcomes for children are good

The nursery's enabling and well-resourced base rooms support children of all ages to engage in and lead their own learning. Babies show great excitement and are eager to explore toys using their hands, mouth and feet. Older children are effectively challenged and show a keen interest in activities. Toddlers find out about balance as they build a tower out of large construction bricks in the garden. All children make good progress and are developing skills to support their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429000
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1065698
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Sugarcanes Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP530708
Date of previous inspection	27 September 2013
Telephone number	01279 730 331

Sugarcane Nursery LTD- Nursery on the Heath was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. All of these hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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