

1st Friends day nursery Ltd

2a Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1YL



Inspection date

5 May 2017

Previous inspection date

30 March 2015

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

- Children develop good understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles. For example, they know raising their pulse rate through exercise is good for the heart.
- Staff support all children to develop good communication and speaking skills. For example, they ask older children challenging questions and use good facial expressions and tones of voices to communicate with babies.
- The manager and staff monitor children's progress closely. This enables them to quickly recognise any gaps in development and provide children with individual support to catch up in their learning. All children make good progress.
- Staff establish positive relationships with parents and keep them fully informed. For example, they share information about healthy eating with parents.
- Children learn good skills to support their future learning. They gain early reading skills as they explore a variety of reading materials, such as brochures.
- Staff support children to settle confidently and happily into play. Children develop a good sense of belonging.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not organise group activities well enough to fully engage every child taking part. These activities are sometimes too challenging for the youngest children.
- Although staff have made links with other settings children attend, they have not established highly successful ways to share information about children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- organise group activities more effectively to fully include and engage all those taking part, particularly the youngest children
- develop more successful arrangements for sharing information that supports continuity in learning with other settings children also attend.

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 evidence of the suitability of all those working at the nursery.
- 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 and staff evaluate and reflect upon their current practice effectively. For example, each staff member has an area of responsibility in the learning areas. Staff keep the learning in their areas interesting to ensure that they motivate and engage children. Staff are proactive in implementing new ideas. They carry out research to get inspiration. The manager closely monitors the consistency of the quality of care and learning experiences staff provide. For instance, she observes them in practice and discusses their performance in one-to-one meetings. Staff use the constructive and helpful advice and feedback to improve their future teaching. All staff, including the manager, build further on their skills and knowledge. For example, they attend regular training, such as learning how to develop children's communication skills. Staff use additional funding effectively to meet children's individual learning needs. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding procedures to follow to help protect children's welfare and safety. For example, they carry out thorough risk assessments.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff prepare children well for moving on to school. For example, they make sure children meet the teachers from their intended school when they visit the nursery. This helps children to become familiar with who to expect to see at school. Staff skilfully build on children's play. For example, when children are enjoying exploring different liquids, such as vinegar and food colouring, staff encourage them to mix the liquids and develop their imagination, as they make their own 'magic potions'. All children, including babies have good opportunities to develop their creativity. For instance, they make marks in interesting ways, such as painting with cars.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are positive role models and children learn to be polite and behave well. Children develop a good understanding and respect for other peoples' similarities and differences in the wider world. For example, they dress in outfits traditional to other countries, such as clothes from Nigeria. All children have good opportunities to develop their physical abilities. For example, older children climb and balance on obstacles and younger children explore different ways to move, such as crawling through tunnels.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all ages and abilities make good progress in relation to their individual starting points. Children develop good early mathematical skills. For example, older children carry out simple calculations and confidently count as they play. Children are keen to experiment and learn about how things work. For example, they use torches in dark dens to explore the concept of making shadows.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY236227
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	1091488
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 - 8
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	1st Friends Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901930
Date of previous inspection	30 March 2015
Telephone number	01634 578396

1st Friends Day Nursery registered in 2002. It is located in Gillingham, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7am until 6pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 10 members of staff, nine of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 and one member of staff has early years professional status.

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