

Little Rascals

Unit 2/14, Wycke Hill Business Park, Wycke Hill, Maldon, CM9 6UZ



Inspection date	23 May 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Overall, staff have a good understanding of children's learning needs. They regularly observe and assess children's development and provide activities and experiences to engage and motivate them. Children make good progress.
- The key-person system is well established and helps children to form strong emotional attachments as staff effectively support them in their play. Children develop good levels of confidence and feel safe and secure in the pre-school environment.
- Children learn to understand and value people's similarities and differences, to be kind to each other and to share and take turns. Staff have clear and consistent rules and children happily follow the routines of the day.
- Partnerships with other professionals are effective. Staff work very closely with others to ensure that children who are not meeting their expected milestones are fully supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Initial information gathered from parents about children's prior skills and capabilities is not always comprehensive enough to enable staff to support children's progress as well as possible from the start.
- At times, self-evaluation is not used effectively enough to set challenging targets and raise the quality of the provision even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance systems for obtaining more detailed information from parents about children's learning and abilities on entry
- continue to strengthen self-evaluation processes, in particular to assess fully the impact of practice on outcomes for children, and to raise further the good quality of provision.

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 and provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders and staff have a good understanding of their role to protect children from harm. They know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare or development. Staff follow policies and procedures well, assess and minimise risks and help children to keep themselves safe. The manager implements good systems for the safe recruitment, induction and supervision of staff. The setting is kept secure at all times and staff closely supervise children as they play inside and outdoors. The manager uses additional funding well to tailor activities to children's individual needs and extend their learning further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide interesting spaces, resources, tools, toys and equipment that appeal to children, and promote their investigative, exploratory and imaginative play. Staff pay attention to how babies engage in activities and talk to them, encouraging them to explore and discover new things. For example, they model words when interacting with toddlers as they play with a good range of sensory resources. Staff support older children's listening and attention skills, especially during group singing activities. For example, they use props they have made to help capture children's attentions and aid their understanding. Staff successfully support children's understanding of mathematics through a range of daily activities and routines.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Babies and children are cared for in a safe, secure and well-resourced environment. Children are well supported when they start in the setting. Staff have high but realistic expectations to help children develop their independence. Children behave well and show kindness, concern and respect for others. Staff encourage children to share and take turns and this helps them to develop good personal and social skills. Children's health and physical development are fostered well. For example, they spend long periods of time outdoors and have daily access to the large indoor play frame. This provides them with excellent opportunities to run around, balance, climb and stretch. Staff promote healthy eating. For example, snacks and meals are freshly prepared, nutritious and balanced.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, acquire the key skills and knowledge to ensure they are ready for future learning at school. For example, children like to look at books, happily exploring them on their own or with others. They listen with interest to stories read by staff. Children learn personal hygiene through everyday routines, such as washing their hands. They develop friendships, good social skills and become confident communicators.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482975
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1001147
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	45
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Theresa Maria Wheeler
Registered person unique reference number	RP516901
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01621857806

Little Rascals Nursery registered in 2014. It is situated in a converted business unit in Maldon, Essex. The nursery employs eight members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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