

Playzone Day Nursery

Langland Road, Netherfield, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK6 4NP



Inspection date

23 June 2017

Previous inspection date

20 May 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 leads a well-qualified and highly motivated staff team. Her supportive supervision and high ambition contribute to staff's commitment to their work. They seek out professional development opportunities to enhance their good skills.
- Relationships with families are strong. Parents enjoy attending nursery trips, such as to the zoo, and are kept informed about their children's learning. They are highly complimentary about the staff who care for their children.
- Children are excited by their learning. The quality of teaching is consistently good with a successful blend of adult-led and child-led activities throughout the day.
- The nursery is a warm, welcoming place where staff nurture children and help to raise their self-esteem. The staff's kind and caring approach helps children to form close relationships with them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The assessments staff make when children first start at the nursery do not provide them with detailed information to precisely track their progress over time.
- Staff do not consistently keep children's written records up to date. On occasion, some written assessments that are available for other staff and parents do not reflect their excellent knowledge of children's abilities and achievements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- identify clear starting points in learning for children to track their progress more precisely over time
- enhance the way that observations and assessments of children's learning are carried out so information is always up to date and better reflects staff's excellent, actual knowledge of children's development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's learning activities inside and outside. She talked to staff, children, the intervention manager and the centre manager.
- The inspector read through a range of documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents and took into consideration their feedback.

Inspector

Hayley Marshall-Gowen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Extensive knowledge about safeguarding issues and close partnership working with the family centre professionals help staff to maintain a safe environment for children. Children's safety is given the highest priority. Staff attend regular training to update their skills and are fully aware of the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The manager has a deep understanding about relevant child protection issues in the local area. Staff are vigilant in supervising children as they play and support them to use a range of equipment safely. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager reviews the quality of the nursery and has a positive attitude towards ongoing improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff develop children's communication and language skills well. They are playful with children, asking them to describe the texture of cornflour and water as children gleefully squeeze it between their hands. Younger children talk about their ideas and staff listen to them, giving them time to express themselves. Older children play highly imaginative role-play games where they use their experiences to mother puppets. Children use tools, such as hammers, making intricate patterns from coloured shapes tapped into cork boards. Children concentrate at activities and are proud of their finished work, such as drawings of their family.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and self-assured. They play well together, showing care and courtesy. They wait patiently for their turn to go down the slide or to take part in activities. Staff help children to learn about staying safe. Young children are given gentle reminders about not running inside, and their enthusiasm and energy are channelled well by staff who suggest safer ways for them to be active. Children learn about good oral health, such as when they have the toothbrush exchange and a visit from the local dentist. Children learn about keeping safe and they know about rules, such as waiting for staff before using some play equipment.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those for whom the nursery receive additional funding, make good progress in their learning and development. Older children are well prepared for starting school. They become enraptured with books, immersing themselves in their favourite story, which they can retell word for word. This helps them to develop a love of books, an early interest in reading and a fascination with the imaginative world. Children's behaviour is good and they are tolerant and understanding of each other.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141848
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1101012
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 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	78
Name of registered person	Milton Keynes Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP517351
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2014
Telephone number	01908 394996

Playzone Day Nursery registered in 1998 and is run by Milton Keynes Council. The nursery operates from purpose-built premises at Hedgerows Children's Centre. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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