

Diddydots Nursery

St Lawrence Village Hall, Jubille Field, main Road, St Lawrence, Southminster, CM0 7LY



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

27 June 2017

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

- The manager and staff form an effective team and work together with enthusiasm. They demonstrate a strong commitment to continuously improving the quality of children's learning experiences. Self-evaluation is ongoing and is successfully used to identify where the provision can be enhanced.
- Parents are highly complimentary about the friendly and approachable staff. Staff work closely with parents to help children settle and become confident and self-assured in the nursery. Children develop close relationships with their key person.
- Children enthusiastically embrace the wide variety of outdoor play and learning experiences. They explore water and sand, grow plants and build their own obstacle course using crates and planks. Staff encourage children to take risks in their play, while setting clear boundaries to help develop their understanding of keeping safe.
- Children are happy, confident and self-assured because staff build positive relationships with them. This helps children to settle well at the nursery and to develop secure bonds with the adults caring for them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager has not yet fully established effective systems to analyse the progress different groups of children make in their learning, in order to promote outstanding outcomes for all.
- The manager has not fully explored ways to help staff reflect on the impact of their practice in order to build further on the already good quality of teaching.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the monitoring of the progress of different groups of children to analyse what more can be done to promote outstanding outcomes for all
- strengthen the performance management programme to encourage staff to be more self-reflective and enhance teaching skills to the highest levels.

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

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and her staff team undertake safeguarding training and demonstrate a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern about a child. Regular meetings provide opportunities for staff to discuss ideas and share good practice overall. The manager works closely with her small team and is beginning to establish a more defined performance management programme, focusing on ways to further enhance staff's teaching skills. Good links have been established with the local schools and other providers, helping to ensure continuity of learning and care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use observations and assessments effectively to identify children's next steps in learning and monitor their progress. They have a good knowledge of their key children and are confident to talk about their development. Timely interventions by staff ensure that all children's needs are appropriately met and that children develop the skills and attributes needed for future learning. Staff adapt activities to enhance children's experiences and keep them engaged in learning for prolonged periods of time. For example, during play outdoors whilst supported by attentive staff, children are keen to experiment with mixing a range of paint colours that they use to create individual designs. This is one of the many ways staff support children to develop their imaginative and creative skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate that they feel happy, safe and secure in this welcoming nursery. Staff are sensitive to children's individual needs when helping them to settle. This helps to foster nurturing relationships. Staff are good role models and provide consistent guidance to help children manage their behaviour. Children's independence is well promoted from an early age and they follow good hygiene routines. Children show great confidence as they explore the stimulating environment happily and with self-assurance. Children develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. They enjoy regular fresh air and exercise in the exciting outdoor area.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are working comfortably within the range of development expected of them, taking account of their starting points on entry to the nursery. They are happy and confident individuals who demonstrate a strong drive to learn. Children play together well, sharing ideas and developing strong friendships with other children. Children have many opportunities to make marks. They enjoy drawing and then describing their pictures to staff. Children have many opportunities to develop their enjoyment of books. They choose their favourite story and happily look at it on their own or with a member of staff. Children develop the key skills that prepare them for their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484711
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1002740
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	26
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Rachel Marie Lipscombe
Registered person unique reference number	RP513883
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01621 778965

Diddydots Nursery in St Lawrence registered in 2015. The nursery employs six members of staff, one of whom holds appropriate early years qualifications at level 6 and four at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 7am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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