

Sunflower Nursery Cambridge

2a Stretten Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 3EP



Inspection date

27 June 2017

Previous inspection date

11 June 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

- Leaders and managers are ambitious and have high expectations. Self-evaluation includes the views of parents, staff and children and is used well to identify and prioritise improvements.
- Children benefit from a broad range of engaging experiences that take into account their individual interests. Older children behave extremely well and have grown into confident individuals who are more than ready for the new challenges of school.
- There is a good focus on safeguarding. Managers and staff are well trained in child protection matters. They have a confident understanding of how to recognise and address concerns about children's welfare. They work effectively with other agencies to support children and families who need extra help.
- Children are provided with many enjoyable activities that support their communication and language skills. From an early age, children develop a love of books and stories. They learn songs and rhymes and continually extend their vocabulary.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Not all staff recognise when to adapt their teaching in order to present more challenging learning opportunities for the most-able children, motivating them to make outstanding progress in their learning.
- Group activities for younger children do not take account of those children who find sitting and listening more difficult.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- adapt activities more skilfully to provide motivational and challenging learning opportunities for the most-able children
- review the planning of group activities to take account of the varying abilities of the children taking part.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- 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 to several parents, looked at comments in children's records and examined the results of surveys.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at convenient times during the inspection. She held meetings with the manager and other senior leaders.
- A range of documentation was looked at, including the nursery's self-evaluation, policies and procedures and children's records. Evidence of staff suitability and training records were checked.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders have a strong commitment to staff's professional development. Staff are encouraged to improve their qualifications and attend training that increases their skills. For example, staff have attended forest-school workshops to better support children who enjoy being outdoors. Safeguarding is effective. Recruitment procedures are thorough to help ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The nursery is secure and any visitors have their identity checked. Children are involved in carrying out risk assessments, such as helping staff with their regular checks of the premises. Staff have very good partnerships with parents. They involve parents in their children's assessments and provide ideas to help them extend learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Well qualified and experienced staff use their skills effectively to observe children and accurately assess their learning. The planning of activities is responsive to children's individual interests. Staff know the children well and have affectionate relationships with them. They have enjoyable discussions with children and value their contributions, promoting their self-esteem. Staff take children on walks to learn about the community around them. Children develop their awareness of different cultures and lifestyles as, for example, they learn about different festivals. Numbers are woven into practical activities. Children count the insects they find and mark the numbers off a clipboard. Staff encourage older children to develop shape and colour recognition in fun ways, such as playing games on the computer.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Most children have almost continuous access to the outdoors. They play exuberantly in the rain, delighting in splashing in puddles. Staff encourage children to look for insects and together they examine slugs and snails with interest. Mealtimes are well organised to give children time to sit, relax and socialise. Menus are well balanced and healthy. Staff talk to children about the benefits of fresh foods and help them to grow produce in the garden. Children develop strong emotional links with staff and enjoy their company. Parents provide detailed information when children first join the nursery, which helps to support a positive settling-in process. Babies and younger children are nurtured by attentive staff and benefit from following their home routines.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress in their learning. Additional funding is used well to support those children who need help to catch up with their peers. Children learn practical skills, such as tidying away and washing their hands. There is an array of writing materials to promote children's interest in making marks. Many older children confidently write their names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221564
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1087671
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Cambridge Housing Society Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP517143
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2014
Telephone number	01223 578608

Sunflower Nursery registered in 1995 and is part of a not-for-profit organisation. The nursery employs 18 members of staff, including an administrator and a cook. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, four hold qualifications at level 6 and one has early years teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays and some staff training days. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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