

Honeybear House Day Nursery

Conrad Road, Witham, Essex, CM8 2SD



Inspection date	24 July 2017
Previous inspection date	29 January 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

- The manager and staff provide children with a stimulating and very well-resourced learning environment. A wide range of useful information is displayed for parents and visitors, including lots of examples of children's creations.
- Children enjoy their time at the nursery and form warm, close relationships with the friendly and caring staff. Children settle quickly and are confident to make independent choices from an early age.
- Staff support children's learning well. They provide a very good range of activities that they plan around the children's interests. Staff join in children's play, encouraging them to discover and try new things. Children's starting points are assessed on entry and they make good progress during their time in the nursery.
- The manager and her well-qualified team demonstrate commitment to promoting a good quality nursery. Reflective practice includes staff and parents, helping to drive change and overall improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not always have as many opportunities as possible to explore and use mathematical language during play.
- The management team does not consistently make the best possible use of monitoring and evaluating practice to focus on raising the overall quality of teaching and learning to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enrich opportunities for children to use mathematical language in their play
- enhance procedures for monitoring and evaluating staff's practice to raise the overall quality of teaching and assessment to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- One of the inspectors discussed an evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspectors held a number of discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspectors looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspectors discussed with the manager and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents through discussions during the inspection.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The enthusiastic manager is supportive of staff, children and their families. Staff share ideas and attend regular team and supervisory meetings. Management and staff establish extremely good partnerships with parents and other professionals. They work well with them to support children's individual needs. This includes learning packs, providing activity ideas to share at home. Parents report positively on the support they receive and appreciate that their views are valued. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have a good knowledge of the nursery's safeguarding policies and know what to do should they have a concern.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children learn through a very good balance of planned activities that are led by adults and spontaneous play. Children particularly enjoy sensory activities and staff provide a good range of messy play to enable them to explore. Older children create marks using brushes and water, while other children experiment with jelly. They observe how it changes from watery when melted to squidgy and squelchy when set. They thoroughly enjoy mixing the colours together to create one brown colour and enjoy scooping the mixture back into the cup. They decide to put it back in the fridge to test if it will set again. Babies and toddlers enjoy investigating cornflakes and play dough, filling and emptying containers and feeling different textures. Outdoors, children explore the seasons of the year and learn where some foods come from, as they plant pumpkins, herbs and flowers. Children learn to listen in a group and follow instructions. They use their imaginations well; for example, as they act out real life and imaginary situations. Staff encourage children's early literacy skills well and read stories interactively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and settled in the nursery. They know what to expect during sessions because they follow familiar routines and staff share clear expectations of behaviour. Children benefit from opportunities to serve their own food and drinks as they make choices from nutritious food options. They develop increasing independence in their practical skills, such as putting on coats to go outside or dealing with personal hygiene needs. Children learn to value and respect other people and their environment. The outdoor area provides exciting play opportunities for all ages and effectively supports children who prefer to play and learn outside. Older children develop good physical skills, climbing on equipment outdoors and using wheeled toys.

Outcomes for children are good

All children enjoy the activities available and show sustained levels of interest in what is provided, in relation to their age. Babies and younger children learn to crawl and walk, eagerly exploring their environment. They discover things for themselves, investigating how toys work as they press buttons. Children of all abilities, including those who speak English as an additional language, gain skills which help prepare them for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY276157
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1072031
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	82
Name of registered person	Honeybear House Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527739
Date of previous inspection	29 January 2015
Telephone number	01376 521510

Honeybear House Day Nursery registered in 2004. It is owned and managed by a private company. The nursery provider employs 16 members of childcare staff, of whom 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. This includes two members of staff trained to degree level. The nursery provider employs a cook and cleaner. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6.30pm, all year around. The nursery staff provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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