

# Squirrels Day Nursery

Hatfield Community Free School, Briars Lane, HATFIELD, Hertfordshire, AL10 8ES



## Inspection date

25 July 2017

Previous inspection date

27 April 2015

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- Children thrive in the nursery. Their well-being and sense of belonging are promoted to a very high level. The strong bonds with staff support children extremely well.
- Children make excellent progress in their learning. Staff have an exceptional knowledge of children's individual strengths and know how to use these to help them develop further skills. Staff expertly help children to recall things they have already learnt and to apply their knowledge to new situations.
- Staff provide exceptional support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They have attended training to help extend their knowledge and understanding of how to support children's individual needs, including speech and language delay. They put their training into practice extremely successfully, helping to close any gaps in children's learning.
- The management team successfully monitors practice throughout the nursery and supports staff to achieve their goals to enhance their teaching to the highest level.
- All staff help to evaluate the quality of the provision. They take responsibility for bringing about sustained improvements that continually enrich outcomes for all children.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the already excellent partnership working with parents to offer even more support for them to promote children's learning at home.

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

### Inspector

Alison Reeves

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

Managers are highly organised and motivated to achieve the highest standards across the nursery. Safeguarding is effective. Staff use their training and experience to support families and to identify concerns about children's well-being. Staff benefit from regular supervision meetings with the manager. They use the feedback from observations of their practice and their own reflections to identify areas for development. The manager makes sure that training is completed and implemented successfully. Parents speak highly of the staff and the varied experiences they offer children each day. Parents make extremely effective use of the online learning record to see their children's progress. They are rapidly beginning to embrace the opportunities to share children's learning at home and staff have identified the potential to enhance the support for this even further.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

Staff use their exceptional understanding of the children's interests and needs to provide challenges and to get children to think for themselves. Even the youngest children demonstrate excellent concentration skills. The wealth of opportunities for them to participate in activities helps them to stay focused and interested. Children listen to stories and then work together on their own stories. Staff make excellent use of props to help children create and confidently tell their story to the group. The youngest children explore the resources and experiment. They use colourful crayons to make marks, building their hand control and developing their creativity. All children have superb opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills. Staff use their detailed assessments of children's learning to monitor the progress they make.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

Children are interested in and excited about their time at the nursery. The wealth of resources freely available to them helps children to create imaginative learning experiences of their own. Staff make very effective use of space. There are clearly defined areas, which helps children to find the things they need. Staff actively seek children's thoughts and ideas. They make sure children know they are valued and their contributions to discussions and activities are always welcomed. Children's behaviour is frequently exemplary. They understand the high expectations and quickly learn the nursery values. Children help each other to behave well and to take responsibility for tasks. Staff are excellent role models of how to behave towards others. Children's health and well-being are promoted extremely successfully, with lots of outdoor experiences.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

Children are extremely well prepared for learning in school. They have a keen interest in letters and letter sounds. They apply this knowledge in their play and are confident in their abilities. Children thoroughly enjoy being able to show what they know and can do. They look forward to the challenges of the next stage in their education. They have a very positive attitude about what they can achieve from a young age. Children are independent and relish the opportunities to do things for themselves.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY450036
<b>Local authority</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1095363
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	50
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	88
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Squirrels Day Nurseries (Hatfield) Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP908151
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	27 April 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	07713485193

Squirrels Day Nursery registered in 2012. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two with qualifications at level 6. The nursery opens from 8am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays, two weeks in August and two weeks over Christmas. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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