

1st Friends day nursery and creche Ltd

C/O Roko Health Club, Off Will Adams Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6BY



Inspection date

28 July 2017

Previous inspection date

4 September 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 monitors individual children's progress and that of different groups of children effectively, to close any emerging gaps in their learning and development. For example, she identified that learning opportunities for technology needed to be enhanced. This helps children to continue making good progress for their age.
- The management team is dedicated to making continuous improvements. It uses a variety of ways to evaluate practice, for example, through observations, parents' views and practice reviews.
- There is a well-established key-person system and staff build strong bonds with children. They know the children well and are attentive to their needs.
- Staff provide regular opportunities to involve parents in their children's learning. For example, they have termly meetings and send parents ideas on how to support learning at home.
- Staff are effective at developing children's mathematical skills. For example, children regularly count, use 'money' to buy snack items, and they learn to tell the time.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff miss opportunities to extend children's thinking skills.
- Staff do not consistently encourage children's developing independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to strengthen staff's skills in extending children's thinking during group activities
- build further on children's ability to be independent.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the provision for children's learning, inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector talked to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector viewed staff planning and children's assessment records.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including suitability checks for staff, first-aid certificates and safeguarding policies.

Inspector

Janine Scott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children and the procedures to follow if they have any concern regarding their safety or welfare. The manager has recently attended training on recruitment and has further strengthened the procedures. The management team monitors staff practice and discusses strengths and areas for improvement to support their continuous improvement through regular support meetings. For example, it was identified that practice for supporting children with their reading could be strengthened further and a member of staff is currently attending specific training. The manager works closely with the local authority to support other settings to improve their leadership.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work with parents to gain starting points for children. Through their understanding of how children learn, staff plan exciting activities that build on their existing knowledge. For example, children make their own modelling dough, measuring the ingredients and observing the changes as they add different ingredients. Staff encourage them to add their own unique ingredients to the mixture, such as plastic spiders. Children's literacy skills are developing securely and they have opportunities to practise their early writing skills. Children are keen to draw and talk about their pictures. Staff regularly read to children and point out the rhyming words. Children have opportunities to explore resources and activities that help them learn about people's differences, for example, they have enjoyed trying food from Nigeria.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled in the nursery. Staff are sensitive and responsive to children's emotional needs and interests. For example, toddlers in the baby room ask for bubbles throughout the day and staff support this by blowing bubbles each time they are asked. Staff praise children for their efforts, supporting their well-being. For example, staff regularly give children a 'high five' to show they have achieved well. Children are learning about healthy lifestyles. For example, children are offered healthy drinks and snacks, and staff talk about the effects exercise has on their bodies when they play outside. Children are encouraged to be polite, behave well and follow rules. For example, when going to play in the outside area, they all hold a 'walk along rope' and wait until staff close and lock the gate before playing.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points. They are confident and active learners. For example, they challenge their own physical skills by building bridges to balance on in the garden and experiment with ways to move. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, such as school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY423311
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	1071372
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	24
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	1st Friends Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901930
Date of previous inspection	4 September 2014
Telephone number	01634382330

1st Friends day nursery and creche Ltd registered in 2011. It is one of three nurseries owned and operated by 1st Friends Day Nursery Limited. The nursery and creche operates from the Roko Health Club in Gillingham, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am to 7pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery employs eight staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications to level 2 and above, including the deputy manager who holds a qualification at level 6 and one of the managers who has early years professional status. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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