

Umbrella Nursery

Thistley Hill, Melbourne Avenue, Dover, CT16 2JH



Inspection date	2 August 2017
Previous inspection date	9 August 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 new manager has made significant improvements since the last inspection. She monitors her staff well. For example, she provides regular support and meetings, identifies relevant training and observes their practice. This helps to improve staff's skills and to give them a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Leaders and staff complete thorough risk assessments of the environment that are regularly checked and reviewed, including for the outside space. This helps children play safely in their surroundings.
- Staff successfully deploy themselves to help meet children's individual learning and care needs. They consistently seek support from their colleagues, where needed, to help ensure that children are supervised at all times.
- Staff use the information from their observations and assessments well to plan for children's abilities and to extend their learning further. Children make good progress.
- Staff provide regular opportunities to involve parents in their children's learning. For instance, they provide online information and termly reviews, and have daily discussions. This helps parents to continue their children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to help children fully explore and investigate the media and materials they use as part of their creative learning.
- Staff do not consistently help children build as much as possible on their mathematical development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to explore and investigate media and materials in order to enhance their creative play and learning
- make better use of opportunities to help children develop their mathematical skills as far as possible.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning and development.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including suitability checks and children's records.
- The inspector held discussions with staff in relation to observations of children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Sarah Stephens

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

There is secure vetting and recruitment processes in place. For instance, the manager conducts interviews, seeks references, completes relevant suitability checks and follows effective induction processes. This helps ensure that staff are suitable for their new roles. The manager monitors and manages child-to-staff ratios effectively. For example, she recently employed new staff, including a team of 'bank staff' and carefully plans her staff rotas. The manager evaluates the nursery well. She identifies areas of weakness and sets targets for improvement. This has improved the quality of the provision to a good standard. Safeguarding is effective. The manager knows what to do in the event that staff are no longer suitable for their roles, such as following the nursery's disciplinary procedures. Staff have a secure understanding of the signs that would cause them concern about a child's welfare and the processes to follow.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Leaders and staff monitor children's progress well. They work with other professionals to meet their specific learning needs. Leaders use additional funding effectively to meet children's development needs. For example, they provide relevant training to help increase staff knowledge, such as learning about the different ways boys learn. Also, leaders and staff provide events around children's interests to support their development. This helps gaps in progress to consistently close. Staff successfully adapt activities and sensitively fit in with children's play. They ask them questions to help them think for themselves and challenge their learning further. Staff build children's physical development. For instance, babies and younger children climb equipment and roll balls in the outside space, and pre-school children hold paintbrushes with control.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The manager has secure procedures in place to deal with illnesses. For example, she ensures that children and staff who are sick do not attend the nursery for a set period. This supports children's physical health and minimises the risk of cross-infection. Staff successfully support children's independence. For instance, children pour drinks, cut fruit and clear their plates after lunch. Children behave well. Staff offer children clear guidance and explanations to help them manage their behaviour. For example, they remind them about using their 'walking feet' indoors, sharing and taking turns. Staff help children learn about healthy lifestyles. For instance, they provide children with their favourite fruits at snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make progress that is typical for their age and prepare well for their move to school. They are confident to talk to adults and talk about their wider experiences. Children keep their attention in activities, such as during finger and hand painting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443819
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1095958
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900801
Date of previous inspection	9 August 2016
Telephone number	01304203040

Umbrella Nursery registered in 2012. It is owned by Alpha Nurseries Ltd and operates in Dover, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, throughout the year, except for bank holidays. There are 16 members of staff, 11 of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications, including the manager who holds 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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