

Inspection date	24 August 2017
Previous inspection date	15 August 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	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

- Staff are kind and caring and fully understand children's emotional needs. Babies and children settle extremely well into the nursery and form especially close attachments to key staff.
- Children demonstrate by their behaviour that they feel safe and secure in the nursery. Staff have high expectations and set consistent boundaries for children's behaviour. They help them to develop excellent social skills. Children learn to care for and help each other.
- Staff help children very effectively to learn to become independent. Children learn to do things for themselves, they choose their activities and make decisions about their play. Staff help children to build their confidence and thinking skills extremely well.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. Staff ensure that parents are fully involved in their children's learning. They meet with parents often to discuss their children's progress at every stage in their transition through the nursery.
- High-quality observations and assessments of children's learning ensure accurate and very effective planning for children's progress. Parents and staff work successfully together to identify the next stages in children's learning.
- Staff reflect continually on their practice and the effectiveness of their planning. They are constantly seeking to make improvements to the setting and parents' and children's views are taken fully into account.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement the excellent plans for improvements to the garden, affording children access at all times of the year and evaluate the impact of these on children's outcomes.

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 carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider, and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by speaking with some of them during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at the suitability and qualifications of staff, children's records, policies and procedures and other relevant documentation.

Inspector

Jennifer Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers and staff are highly ambitious and share a commitment to achieving outstanding outcomes for children. Managers monitor the progress of groups of children meticulously and precisely. This helps them to understand if any areas of teaching or learning need enhancement. They work extremely closely with other professionals to support children who need extra help with their development and learning. Teaching is of an exceptionally high standard. Staff supervision is extremely effective and staff say they are exceedingly well supported by managers. Staff are well qualified and have excellent training opportunities to help them extend their skills and keep up to date with changes in legislation. Safeguarding is effective. All staff demonstrate their excellent knowledge of the nursery's policies and procedures. They fully understand how to identify any risks to children's well-being and safety. Managers ensure that safeguarding information is up to date and staff are fully aware of the procedures to follow should there be a concern.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Babies and children are exceptionally active learners in the nursery. They participate in a vast range of highly stimulating, imaginative and challenging activities that motivates them to learn. Older children enthusiastically engage in fascinating science experiments. For example, they use a bottle and balloon to mix vinegar and baking powder. They are very competitive and extremely eager to find out whose balloon grows the biggest. Babies and toddlers explore and learn about different textures, such as paint, oats and water. They learn new vocabulary and extend their communication and language skills extremely well. Staff talk to children all the time, giving instructions and explanations. They ask them about things they do at home and talk about their families and past events.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy exploring the exceptionally imaginatively designed garden. They love digging for worms and planting vegetables. Babies strengthen their legs as they totter up the hills and older children climb trees, developing excellent physical skills. Managers and staff are keen to develop outdoor areas further to increase accessibility to children all year round. Children learn about foods that are healthy. They taste delicious and sweet-smelling fruits that they chop and push onto sticks to make kebabs for their snack. Babies and children become independent from an early age. They learn to feed themselves and serve their own food. Staff are extremely vigilant that children with allergies stay safe and are exceptionally well protected against foods that can harm them.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress and are well prepared for school. Older children learn about letters and the sounds they represent and enjoy writing their name. Babies develop a great love of books and listen intently to stories. Children enjoy exploring modern technology and learn excellent skills in mathematics, such as matching and problem solving. They learn about differences and similarities in the world around them. They learn to care for and help each other and to respect other people.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY271249
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	1064483
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	92
Name of registered person	Polardreams Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP521727
Date of previous inspection	15 August 2013
Telephone number	07787 124754

Rascals registered in 2003. It is one of two nurseries run and managed by Polardreams Limited. There are 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 19 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7am until 7pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It also offers care to school-aged children before and after school and during school holidays.

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