

Aristotots Nursery School

Soskin Drive, Stantonbury Fields, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK14 6DP



Inspection date	24 August 2017
Previous inspection date	15 April 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 makes good use of reflection and monitoring of children's good progress to identify areas of the provision that she can improve further. She leads her team well to make these improvements, which helps maintain high standards.
- Staff work very well with parents. Parents report that they feel well informed about their children's progress and that they appreciate the opportunities to help build on children's learning at home. For example, staff send home suggestions for activities for parents and children to complete together.
- Staff provide children with a very positive start to their time at nursery. The staff caring for babies are very warm and kind. They provide lots of encouragement to help babies master their early moving and communication skills, and they show great pride in the good progress each child makes.
- Children are very happy and settled. They are cheerful and enthusiastic about being at nursery. They like the staff who look after them and enjoy the company of their friends.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not fully consider how they will provide enough challenge for the most able children when they plan learning experiences for older children.
- Staff do not plan some times of the day as well as they could for younger children. For example, children become distracted and less focused when staff are ensuring everyone is ready for mealtimes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- plan more thoroughly to ensure all children, including the most able, are consistently challenged to extend their learning and develop new skills
- improve the organisation of the day to ensure that routines to meet individual children's care needs do not unnecessarily interrupt other children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff about their understanding of child protection, safeguarding and first aid.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including policies and children's records.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The provider follows thorough and effective recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of those she employs to work with children. She completes ongoing reviews of the premises to ensure that children are kept safe. She organises regular training for all staff to ensure they have a suitable understanding of how to recognise and respond to any concerns to protect a child's welfare. She accurately identifies any children who are making less progress than expected and works well with other professionals to help ensure they receive any additional help they may need. She makes ongoing improvements, such as ensuring children have better access to a wide range of books to help their developing literacy skills. Staff appreciate the regular opportunities to discuss their performance and the effective guidance and training from the manager that help maintain their good standards of teaching.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make thorough and accurate assessments of each child's progress. They build a clear picture of any gaps in learning and use this well to plan how to help children gain any less secure skills. Overall, staff are effective at helping children to make progress. For example, staff use younger children's interest in water play to explore mathematical concepts, such as 'big and small' and 'full and empty'. Staff help older children to write their names on pictures they have drawn to encourage their early writing skills. Staff provide a wide range of resources to help children develop their physical skills. For example, all children enthusiastically use the large-scale equipment outdoors and they enjoy taking part in sand, water and dough activities indoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff meet children's care needs well. Children build warm bonds with staff, which helps promote their emotional well-being. Staff use routine times for younger children to further build these bonds. For example, they chat and sing to them as they change nappies and offer gentle reassurance to help babies settle. Staff have improved mealtime arrangements for older children so that children can begin to independently meet their own needs. For example, children now find their own cutlery and pour drinks. Children develop an interest in healthy lifestyles, such as when enjoying regular exercise and nutritious meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good developmental progress. Babies learn to manage their movements and to enjoy exploring and learning. Younger children continue to make good progress with their physical and communication skills. Older children gain a secure set of skills in preparation for school, including useful early literacy and mathematical abilities. All children learn to behave well and to be respectful of the similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY270136
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1068667
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 - 4
Total number of places	99
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Aristo-Tots Private Nursery School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903561
Date of previous inspection	15 April 2014
Telephone number	01908 311800

Aristotots Day Nursery registered in 2003 and is situated in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. It is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs 23 members of staff, of whom 20 hold appropriate qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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