

Lexden Lodge Kindergarten

26 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QD



Inspection date	25 August 2017
Previous inspection date	16 September 2014

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

- Children's progress is excellent. Staff take a great deal of care to provide children with experiences that help to inspire them and encourage their curiosity and interest.
- Staff have excellent relationships with children. They know children's needs instinctively and react quickly. For example, staff know when children are becoming tired and gently soothe them to sleep. Children have very high levels of emotional well-being.
- The management team and staff have exceptional relationships with parents and other professionals, such as health visitors. They share a very wide range of information with parents regarding all aspects of children's care and achievements. Health visitors meet with parents at the nursery to discuss aspects of children's learning which require additional support.
- There are extraordinary opportunities for children to learn about the differences between themselves and others. For example, staff take them on regular visits to a local residential care home where children enjoy taking part in painting and drawing activities with the ladies and gentlemen who live there.
- Children's behaviour is exceptional. They have excellent social skills and manners which they freely use whenever they interact with other children and staff. Children patiently take turns, share resources and negotiate roles in their imaginative play.
- The management team makes excellent use of ongoing self-evaluation. They gather information from children, parents and staff, helping to prioritise areas to develop.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build even further on opportunities to encourage and ignite children's creative skills, particularly during planned activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff in their rooms and outside in the garden areas.
- The inspector spoke to parents, children, staff and the management team.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team and checked evidence of staff's qualifications and their suitability to work with children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions with her regarding children's learning and progress.
- The inspector sampled risk assessments and looked at children's learning records.

Inspector

Sue Mann

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team works extremely closely together and have very high expectations of staff. They observe staff and hold regular meetings with them individually to check on their progress. The management team quickly arranges any training to support staff's skills and knowledge even further. It accurately monitors children's progress to help identify areas where they need extra support. Staff plan all activities extremely well, although, very occasionally, they miss opportunities to add a wider range of resources to enhance children's creative skills even further. Staff have strong links with staff at other settings that children attend and school teachers. These help to support excellent communication and continuity in children's care and learning. Safeguarding is effective. The management team ensures all staff know what to do in the event of any concerns about children's safety or welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The quality of teaching is exceptionally high. Staff are extremely responsive to children's interests and go to great lengths to capitalise on the learning opportunities. For example, children learn about health and safety and vocabulary associated with building in the construction area. Staff encourage children to ensure they have their hard hats and high visibility jackets on. They ask them to think why it is important to wear safety clothes. Children mix sand and water together to make pretend cement and use this to sandwich lines of plastic bricks together. Staff spontaneously interact with children. For example, when a glitter jar becomes empty, staff pretend they are pirates and the plastic jar is their telescope, repeating well-known pirate phrases.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff make learning extremely enjoyable and make the most of opportunities to help children learn about the world around them and to care for other living creatures. For example, when children found an unusual green spider, staff made effective use of online resources to help them find out what type of spider it was. Overnight, the spider built an intricate web and laid eggs in her new jar home. Staff built on this fascination further and took the children on a hunt in the garden to find possible sources of food for the spider. Children vividly recall how they let the spider and her babies go in the garden.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are very independent and consistently take control of their own learning. They freely combine resources to extend their play. For example, they found a toy telephone to call the doctor for their 'injured' friend on the construction site. Older children have extremely well developed listening and concentration skills. For example, at circle time, they sit very still and follow staff's lead to sing complex action songs. Children quickly learn the words and even keep the song going when staff stop to hear their voices. Younger children settle in very quickly and soon became intently engrossed in exploring plastic dinosaurs in jelly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY307729
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1104357
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	125
Number of children on roll	186
Name of registered person	Samco Enterprises Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP523888
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2014
Telephone number	01206 574005

Lexden Lodge Kindergarten registered in 2005. The Kindergarten employs 30 members of staff. Of these, 24 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. This includes one member of staff who has early years practitioner status and one who has a degree. The kindergarten opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The kindergarten provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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