

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Maidstone Ragstone House



Ragstone House, 48 College Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6SA

Inspection date 25 August 2017
Previous inspection date 28 May 2015

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

- Staff form positive relationships with parents and regularly share two-way information to help consistency for the children. The manager created a parent partnership group which enables parents to seek support from staff and have any questions answered.
- Children settle quickly and form secure bonds with their key person. They behave very well and confidently move around the nursery as they play.
- Staff within all rooms have a good understanding of children's current abilities and their individual needs. They plan and organise activities that continue children's interests, such as digging for dinosaur bones.
- Staff support children's language skills well and introduce new words to extend their vocabulary. For example, they show older children pictures of volcanoes and talk about 'lava'.
- The manager and staff consistently assess and monitor children's learning and development. They provide a broad range of relevant activities and experiences. Staff support children who are learning English as an additional language well. All children make good progress from their starting points which securely underpins their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to help younger children fully develop their early independence skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer further support for children to develop their early independence skills fully.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children from all the nursery rooms playing indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the nursery manager and discussed the impact of teaching on children's outcomes.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including accident records, complaint files and confirmation of staff suitability, and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Kirsty Hillocks

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of how to identify and report any concerns regarding children's safety or welfare. They regularly keep their knowledge up to date and know the procedures to follow if they are worried by a colleague's behaviour. Safeguarding is effective. The management team follows thorough recruitment and vetting processes. Staff complete a comprehensive induction schedule and have regular supervision sessions. Staff are well qualified and they undertake regular training to continue to enhance their knowledge and practice. Managers routinely review and evaluate their service which includes the views of parents. They maintain good standards and set clear goals to improve. For example, supporting all parents to use the nursery's online assessment system to inform staff of their child's learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are well motivated and imaginative as they play. Older children talk to each other enthusiastically about what they do when at home and in their community. For example, they share their experiences of going shopping. Children are kind and caring to each other. They happily share what they have with their friends. Children regularly practise their early writing skills. Pre-school children can write their own name on their artwork. Staff help parents understand how to be involved in their child's learning and offer ideas for how to continue the learning at home. Staff support children's reading skills well. For example, they create the signs of local shops for use when children play with small-world toys.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Transitions are managed effectively and all children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Staff engage with other professionals to support children who are moving on to school. For instance, they arrange for teachers to visit the nursery and meet the children to help prepare them for the next stage in their learning. Children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. They learn that the food is good for them and will make them 'big and strong'. Children learn to appreciate the diversity of different people's backgrounds. Staff regularly help children to develop a strong understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, by routinely practising emergency evacuation procedures and reminding them to hold onto the bar when they bounce on the small trampoline.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain a secure set of skills in preparation for their future learning. They use their mathematical skills well. For instance, they correctly name and match various shapes and numbers as they play a game together. Babies and young children thoroughly enjoy sensory play, such as exploring sand. They poke it and move their fingers around as they play with various scoops and containers. Babies learn to use their imagination and imitate actions they have observed. For example, they 'chat' as they use a toy telephone.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127285
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1089338
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Just Learning Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900810
Date of previous inspection	28 May 2015
Telephone number	01622 663454

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Maidstone Ragstone House registered in 1998. It operates each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year through. The nursery receives funding for the provision of early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs 13 staff. Of these, 12 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications between level 6 and level 2.

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