

Explorers Nursery

Priory Children's Centre, Cannon Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9SQ



Inspection date

30 August 2017

Previous inspection date

13 April 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 enhance children's communication and language skills effectively. For example, they clearly emphasise key words throughout their interactions and use clear visual signs to help babies' and children's understanding and speaking skills.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff use various ways to engage and involve parents effectively in the nursery and in their children's learning.
- The manager and staff monitor effectively individual children's progress and that of different groups of children, to close any emerging gaps in their learning and development. For example, strategies to engage boys in early writing following their interests have been successfully implemented. All children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff make the most of opportunities to enhance children's independence skills well. Children enjoy making choices. They prepare and serve up their own snack, as well as pouring their own drinks from a jug. Children are also encouraged to prepare themselves effectively for the outdoor environment, such as finding, putting on and fastening their jackets.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, opportunities are missed to challenge and extend children's knowledge to enhance their learning effectively.
- Staff do not consistently make good use of opportunities to help all older children practise their early writing skills. ?

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to challenge and extend on children's current knowledge to enhance their learning effectively
- make the most of opportunities to help older children develop their early handwriting skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities, completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions about children's progress and learning.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and their qualifications, and sampled relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.
- The inspector observed staff planning and the children's assessment records.

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and senior staff work together and accurately evaluate the nursery. They actively include the views of parents and children to identify areas for further improvement. For example, arrival routines have been adjusted to enhance settling-in procedures, strengthen the partnerships with parents and the quality of information exchanged. The manager continually improves the quality of staff practice, for example, by organising relevant training and individual support to raise standards in teaching. For instance, staff implemented small-group focused sessions following training to help children improve their communication and language skills. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date. They understand their role in child protection and know the reporting process to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff accurately assess individual children's development and plan effectively for their next steps in learning with parents. They skilfully use a wide range of resources well to engage children and babies at all times during the day. For instance, children enthusiastically and creatively explore bubbles with a range of tools. The experience is adapted well to effectively meet the age and ability range of all children taking part. For example, the younger children explore how the bubbles move through the air and enjoy blowing and popping them. The older children are encouraged to make connections to real-life experiences, such as snow. Mathematics is promoted well. For example, children consider and discuss the differences in size and quantity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children and babies are happy and settled in their nursery environment, which is welcoming and organised well to enable them to follow their play choices. Staff build on their confidence and sense of belonging well. For example, they constantly praise children for their achievements. Children have a good understanding of routine and are well prepared and enthusiastic about what to expect next throughout the day. They are gaining a growing awareness of healthy lifestyles and are provided with a wide range of nutritious snacks and meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next stages of their learning and their move on to school. For example, children due to start school access focused group learning times to practise their good listening and attention skills. Children develop a good understanding of diversity beyond their immediate family. They enjoy exploring the environment, which is rich in positive cultural images and dual-language text, including books and role-play resources.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY410681
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1094343
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	61
Name of registered person	Thanet Early Years Project
Registered person unique reference number	RP521006
Date of previous inspection	13 April 2015
Telephone number	03000 422900

Explorers Nursery is one of four nurseries run by the Thanet Early Years Project. It registered in 2010 and operates from the Priory Children's Centre in Ramsgate, Kent. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. There are eight members of staff, all of whom have relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or above. This includes two staff members with level 4 qualifications and one member of staff who has early years professional status. The nursery receives funding for free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

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