

Railway Children Nursery

The Station Masters House, 61 Station Road, KETTERING, Northamptonshire, NN15 7HJ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

14 September 2017

16 May 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

- Staff make children's emotional and physical well-being a priority. They provide nurturing relationships, helping children to develop their confidence and social skills. They seek daily information from parents to help them ensure children are comfortable and experience continuity in their care routines.
- Staff work well together as a team to share observations and planning information. They make good use of this information to help children gain their identified next steps in learning. All children make good progress in their learning and development.
- The manager supports her team through supervision meetings and training to improve the effectiveness of their teaching. She encourages staff to reflect on the quality of the provision and work together to drive continuous improvements.
- Staff working with pre-school children make particularly good use of their planned activities to teach children mathematics. For example, staff skilfully simplified their explanations of different shapes to reflect the children's different levels of understanding.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff working with the younger children do not always enable children to make choices about their play and follow their own ideas.
- Staff do not gather detailed information about what children already know and can do and from their start to establish a comprehensive knowledge of children as quickly as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children more opportunities to make choices about their play and learning
- gather more-detailed information from parents about what children already know and can do when they start at the nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and considered their written views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed how well the provider monitors the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector considered the provider's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Victoria Weir

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures her staff regularly update their safeguarding knowledge. Staff have a good understanding of the signs that would give rise to child protection concerns and the reporting procedures to follow. The manager follows strict recruitment and induction procedures to help ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff undertake regular professional development opportunities that help them improve their practice. For example, they gain appropriate early years qualifications. The manager regularly seeks the views of parents and the local authority in her accurate self-evaluation. Based on feedback, she has enhanced information sharing with parents around menus and reviewed the required progress checks on two-year-old children. She checks children progress to ensure any additional support is in place to close gaps in their learning, including links with other professionals.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff use their good understanding of how children learn to support children to engage well in activities. Staff help younger children make links between what they see and do, such as when helping babies pull levers to make the desired noises. They help older children develop their thinking well and test out their ideas. Older children playing dominoes answered skilful questions, as they learnt to check their own answers. Staff effectively support all children's communication and language skills. For example, they teach children new words, support their conversations and read stories to children. Parents receive information about the progress their children have made and their daily activities. They recently benefited from a parents' evening where staff shared their plans for children and how parents could support their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are skilled at understanding non-verbal communication and respond quickly to babies' expressions of their needs. They follow hygienic procedures when caring for children and support children's physical health well. Staff ensure children wash their hands and eat healthy nutritious foods. There is a family atmosphere at mealtimes and at teatimes older and younger siblings eat together. Babies enjoy focused attention as they eat. Staff effectively help children to follow safety procedures and to manage small appropriate risks, such as when using scissors. Staff help children learn about their local community and develop a sense of belonging. Older children enjoy graduation parties as they progress to school and children attend local community events.

Outcomes for children are good

All children gain the necessary knowledge and skills in preparation for the next steps in their learning, including school. Older children learn to count, recognise shapes, read, and write simple words, such as their names. Younger children learn to socialise, communicate and manage their own self-care. Children with English as an additional language learn to communicate well. Children are imaginative and creative in their play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY342183
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1088009
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Railway Children Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906978
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2014
Telephone number	01536 522377

Railway Children Nursery registered in 2006. The nursery is close to the railway station in Kettering. The nursery is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, throughout the year with the exception of a week at Christmas and bank holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 11 members of staff, nine of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The owner/manager and her business manager hold qualified teacher status.

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