

Rectory Nursery School

Hightrees, The Nook, Corby, NN17 1XA



Inspection date	9 November 2017
Previous inspection date	23 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

- Children follow their own ideas, choosing from a wide range of stimulating toys and resources that supports their learning well. For example, babies enjoy developing their understanding of how to make sounds and use simple mechanisms on battery powered toys. Two-year-old children enjoy making marks using chalks and paint.
- All children make good progress relative to their starting points. The staff work well in partnership with the special educational needs coordinator, outside agencies and parents to address any areas where children require additional support.
- Overall, the partnership with parents is an area of strength in the nursery. Staff help parents to extend their children's learning at home in different ways, including through shared literacy resources. Parents are highly complimentary about the quality of care their children receive.
- Staff effectively help children build strong social relationships. For example, staff in pre-school are particularly skilled at using moments during children's play to support children's high levels of cooperation. Children demonstrate they are very confident and happy in the setting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff regularly assess children, they do not make full use of the information gained to plan and provide highly challenging activities that help children make outstanding progress.
- Staff miss some opportunities to help children extend their understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make effective use of the information gained from assessment to help plan highly challenging activities, helping children make the best possible progress
- help children to take even more responsibility for managing risks and expand their awareness of hazards.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including risk assessments, staff suitability checks, children's observation, assessment and planning records, and documentation linked to managing children's progress.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of staff practice and discussed monitoring and professional development.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection and from written feedback.

Inspector

Victoria Weir

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare. The manager uses her effective recruitment, vetting and induction arrangements to ensure the ongoing suitability of staff. Staff benefit from regular supervision and professional development opportunities to continually support their teaching skills and improve children's learning successfully. For example, babies have more opportunities to explore using their senses, as a result of training attended by staff. Staff use opportunities to observe and reflect on their practice to improve, such as when they watch videos of their interactions with children. The manager monitors children's progress to identify and close gaps in learning. She considers local authority advice, parents' views and those of her staff when identifying areas to strengthen.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively use their knowledge of how children learn in their ongoing interactions. They introduce resources, make suggestions, provide simple explanations and question children skilfully. For example, they help pre-school children count objects, and use new vocabulary in meaningful context as they enjoy playing with sand. Staff promote children's imaginative play very well and children have many opportunities to create, sing and explore. For example, staff skilfully help pre-school children learn songs in preparation for a concert that their families will attend. Staff help babies explore the textures of cereal, and toddlers enjoy using different tools to explore paint, including rollers. Older children receive good support to develop skills in preparation for school. For example, staff help children to match numbers, count, recognise shapes and be independent. Staff focus well on supporting all children's communication and language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff effectively support children's emotional and physical well-being. The nursery has enriched their expansive outdoor area since the last inspection. Staff focus well on helping children gain good physical skills and follow good hygiene routines. Staff create a calm and nurturing environment. They respond quickly to babies' changing needs. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for simple tasks. They provide good opportunities for children to learn about their local community and develop a sense of belonging. For example, they share celebratory events with the local school and church.

Outcomes for children are good

Babies and toddlers gain the key skills to help them in their future learning. Children who speak English as an additional language learn English well. Children enjoy taking responsibility for small tasks, such as pouring their own drinks. Children recognise their names and are starting to write these independently. Children learn to count to 10 and some count further during activities. They begin to recognise numbers. Children listen and respond well to instructions from adults.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY471064
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1088248
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	139
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Gabriel Care Homes LTD
Registered person unique reference number	RP902636
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2014
Telephone number	01536 877980

Rectory Nursery School registered in 2013. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold an early years qualification at level 2 or above, including five who hold level 6. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round from 7.30am until 6pm.

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