

Hill Row Day Nursery

35 Hill Row, Haddenham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TQ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

30 November 2017

13 June 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 provide a homely environment for children, where they find a wide range of activities to interest them. Children are confident in their surroundings and have a good knowledge of the daily routines from an early age.
- The management team and staff value the strong partnerships with parents. They ensure that information is regularly shared about children's progress and news from home is welcomed. Parents are pleased how well their children settle at nursery and say children's language skills have improved greatly since starting.
- Children benefit from a consistently good level of teaching. Staff track children's progress accurately and ensure children's interests are central to the planning for their next steps in learning. Consequently, children are developing the skills of motivated and independent learners.
- Self-evaluation is embedded in practice. Ideas from parents are acted upon and staff regularly contribute ideas of how to improve the service that will benefit all children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Younger children's curiosity for toys and things around them is not always recognised and opportunities to enhance their experiences are occasionally missed.
- Staff's professional development is not targeted sufficiently to enhance the level of teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give younger children even greater opportunities to explore and investigate the things that interest them
- strengthen professional development opportunities and support for staff, placing an even higher priority on improving their teaching skills to an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of how to report their concerns about children in their care. They are aware of how to minimise risks to children as they play. This in turn, helps children become aware of how to protect themselves. For example, staff notice when outside equipment is too icy and hazardous to use in cold weather. Recruitment procedures are thorough and staff's backgrounds are checked before they start working with children. The manager monitors children's progress regularly and recognises when further support is needed to bring about swift improvements in their development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children feel at home in the nursery. They are supported by experienced staff who know them well and help children develop into independent learners. Older children express their ideas enthusiastically and are keen to try new things for themselves. For example, children show great interest in making their own volcanoes. They gather the materials they need and think carefully about the construction. Staff enhance learning effectively and much to children's delight, provide resources, such as bubbles, to make their creations come alive. Young children enjoy practising their toddling skills and are happy to explore their surroundings. They show great imagination as they pretend to pour tea and share with staff who are playing alongside. Children are learning to make marks using a variety of materials and are developing their senses by exploring different textures, such as sand and paint.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled at nursery. They enjoy the strong emotional bonds they have with staff and quickly settle into the daily routines when first starting. Children behave well and show consideration for one another. They understand what is expected of them and even the youngest children carry out simple tasks, such as placing paper towels in the bin provided. Children are independent in their self-care needs and know when it is necessary to wash their hands. Suitably nutritious meals are served and children have plenty of fresh air in the garden whenever possible.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and are gaining the skills needed for their next stage in learning. Children communicate well and are especially keen to join staff in adult-led activities. They are able to predict the outcomes of their colour mixing experiments and share their thoughts with friends. Children learn to use small tools with accuracy and are developing good hand-to-eye coordination needed for skills, such as writing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221590
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1087673
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 - 9
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	Hill Row Day Nursery Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP907226
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2014
Telephone number	01353 741340

Hill Row Day Nursery registered in 1996. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. There are six members of staff who work with the children, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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