

Report for Childcare on Domestic Premises

Inspection date	7 December 2017
Previous inspection date	22 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

- Management is ambitious and has high expectations for staff and children. It values the opinions of staff, parents and children, and actively seeks their views when evaluating the provision. It successfully incorporates their comments and suggestions into its plans for future improvements that support good outcomes for children.
- There is a strong partnership with parents, enabling the effective sharing of detailed information. This helps staff to know each child's home-care routine and supports children's learning at home. Parents feel valued and speak highly of staff.
- Staff get to know the children well and plan effectively for their next steps in learning, contributing to children's good progress from their starting points. For example, staff carry out an activity investigating spices and natural materials to introduce new words to younger children.
- Children, including those who are learning English as an additional language, eagerly arrive and settle quickly. Staff support children with enthusiasm, kindness and a caring nature. They work well together and support children's emotional well-being effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not focus on providing children with the highest level of challenge during activities, to build as much as possible on what they can already do.
- Occasionally, staff unnecessarily interrupt children's play. This sometimes hinders their ability to explore and develop their ideas fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with greater levels of challenge during play, to help them make more-rapid progress
- give children more time and opportunity to explore and develop their ideas fully while they play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management, and spoke with parents, staff and children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including assessment records; planning, policies and procedures; and feedback from parents.
- The inspector looked at children's learning records, the self-evaluation form, a selection of policies and other records.

Inspector

Rachel Cornish

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibility to protect children from harm. They know what to do should they be concerned about a child's welfare. Management follows detailed recruitment, vetting and induction processes. It encourages staff well to develop their knowledge and skills. This has led staff to have a better understanding of how to question children and build on their interests. Management and staff work closely with other professionals to support children's needs. They share assessments of children's achievements with settings to which children move. Management monitors the quality of teaching well and the overall progress that children make, to target any gaps in their learning successfully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff consider learning experiences carefully for each child. Children arrive motivated and keen to learn. For example, during water play, children explore textures. Toddlers enjoy experimenting with the water, ice and fruit as they fill and empty containers. Staff help children to develop their mathematical understanding through everyday activities. For example, they create with enthusiasm sensory bottles, confidently measuring and calculating the amount of water needed, and adding stars and glitter with care and control. Older children think critically to work out how to cut a piece of paper into three to decorate greeting cards to take home for their families. Children learn about different cultures and celebrations, and about people in their community. For example, visitors, such as a dentist, a police officer and a bus driver talk about their jobs and help children to learn about keeping healthy and safe.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn about caring for others and to take turns, such as when preparing their snack. They enjoy the responsibility of cutting apples with an apple slicer they share. Children benefit from a choice of homemade healthy foods and drinks at mealtimes. Staff support children to develop their independence and to take responsibility, preparing older children well for their move to school. For instance, children tidy away toys they have finished with and change into wellies to go outside. A good adult-to-child ratio and effective key-person system support children's care and learning needs well. Staff skilfully and sensitively help all children to form secure emotional attachments. For example, they recognise when children need a little extra reassurance to settle.

Outcomes for children are good

Children feel happy and safe in the homely nursery where they have plenty of opportunities to explore their own interests. In readiness for their next stage in learning, children enjoy thinking and making discoveries. For example, younger children work out how to use pedals on a tricycle. Children enjoy the activities and show enthusiasm in taking part. For instance, older children enthusiastically join in singing familiar songs and complete the actions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY370828
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	1068870
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	
Registered person unique reference number	RP906470
Date of previous inspection	22 April 2014
Telephone number	

Highfield Nursery School is privately owned. It re-registered in 2008 as a limited company. It operates from the ground floor of a detached house in the Highfield area of Southampton. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery employs seven members of staff to work with the children. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 5 and three have a level 3 qualification.

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