

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Harpenden Leyton Road

23 Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2HZ



Inspection date

4 January 2018

Previous inspection date

7 November 2013

| 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 demonstrate that they feel very happy and confident in this welcoming nursery. They form warm and secure bonds with their key person and all members of staff. For instance, older children cheer with delight as staff enter their room and babies snuggle up to their key person as they become tired.
- Staff form strong partnerships with parents and involve them in every aspect of their children's learning. Parents receive detailed feedback about their children's good progress and the activities they have enjoyed. They describe the staff as 'kind, warm and friendly'.
- Children enjoy a wealth of interesting learning activities that ignites their curiosity and helps them to make good progress. For example, babies search for hidden toy animals in straw. Older children learn about parts of their body, such as their heart. They fill a red balloon with some water and squeeze it to represent how a heart beats.
- The management team is reflective and regularly evaluates the provision they offer. They actively seek the views of parents, children and staff. Their commitment helps them to drive forward identified areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not provide older children with excellent opportunities to develop an understanding of numbers.
- The current supervision arrangements for staff are not thoroughly implemented to raise the quality of teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for older children to build on their mathematical knowledge of numbers
- build on the existing arrangements for the supervision of staff to focus even more sharply on raising the professional development of staff to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, assistant manager and the childcare and curriculum manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided and also spoke to parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff demonstrate a good understanding of how to identify any children who may be at risk of harm. They know the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Staff visit other nurseries to share good practice and also receive good training opportunities to consistently update their skills. This has enhanced staff knowledge of the importance for older children to make more independent choices of resources to support their learning. The manager thoroughly monitors children's progress, including specific groups of children. Swift action is taken to address any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children are motivated and demonstrate a positive approach to learning. For example, babies persevere in stacking toy bricks on top of each other. Staff consistently respond to babies' babbles, helping them to learn the pattern of conversation. Younger children enthusiastically join in singing nursery rhymes and begin to fill in the correct word when staff leave gaps for them. Older children confidently talk to visitors about their family. They learn the meaning of words, such as 'torso' and 'defined'. Younger children are fascinated by the consistency of cornflour changes as they add different amounts of hand lotion. Staff skilfully promote children's listening and attention skills, and interest in books. For instance, as they read to children they make the experience interactive and use intonation in their voice. This immediately captures children's attention.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

All staff are positive role models. Children behave well, use good manners and demonstrate that they are fully aware of the boundaries in place. They take turns during activities and demonstrate respect and a caring attitude towards each other. Staff provide children with positive messages about the importance of a healthy lifestyle effectively. Children enjoy freshly cooked nutritious meals prepared by the nursery chef. Staff place a strong emphasis on ensuring that children are very well prepared when it is time for them to move into a different room. Children settle swiftly and are immediately ready to learn and explore. The inviting outdoor areas provide children with good opportunities to experience daily fresh air and develop their physical skills in all weathers.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They are independent individuals. Babies feed themselves using a spoon from an early age. Older children serve themselves food and manage their own outer clothing. They write their own name and link letters to their sounds to create short words. Children gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 123607 |
| Local authority | Hertfordshire |
| Inspection number | 1063586 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register |
| Age range of children | 0 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 55 |
| Number of children on roll | 63 |
| Name of registered person | Busy Bees Nurseries Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP900821 |
| Date of previous inspection | 7 November 2013 |
| Telephone number | 01582 762220 |

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Harpenden Leyton Road registered in 1997. It employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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