

Daisy Chain Nursery

Royal Court, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5DA



Inspection date

3 January 2018

Previous inspection date

23 May 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

- Staff provide a warm and nurturing environment for children. Children settle quickly and have close relationships with staff. This supports children's emotional well-being.
- Staff skilfully support children's creative development. Children are given the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of materials, such as, paints, large cardboard boxes and coloured paper.
- Children are effectively supported as they move from one room to the next. Staff help them to be well prepared emotionally for transitions, including when the time comes for them to move on to school.
- Staff are calm, patient role models and demonstrate respectful behaviour. Children follow their example as they show kindness, share resources and play harmoniously.
- Managers and staff closely monitor the development of specific groups of children, such as boys and girls. They offer further support where needed, such as developing younger children's emerging literacy skills. All children make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff working with the younger children do not consistently provide opportunities for those children who prefer to be outside.
- Professional development is not precisely focused to offer all staff the opportunity to develop their skills to the highest standard.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities available to younger children who prefer to learn outside
- strengthen the arrangements for professional development to support all staff to raise their practice 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 two joint observations with the nursery manager and deputy 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 parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have completed child protection training and they understand the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. They know the steps to take to make a referral if they have concerns about a child in their care. The manager follows secure procedures to recruit new staff safely. She continually ensures that staff are, and continue to be, suitable to care for and work with children. The management team and staff are committed to providing high-quality childcare. They take account of the views of parents, children and staff when they evaluate the provision. The manager works alongside the staff and she is starting to consider more robust ways to supervise and manage staff performance. Parents speak very highly of the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is consistently good throughout the nursery. Staff teach children to communicate well with others. For example, they listen to children and ask questions, such as, 'What happened next?', giving children time to reply. Children are extremely enthusiastic and motivated learners. Pre-school children are confident to talk about their learning. They proudly show visitors their special scrap books and are delighted as they find photos of themselves. Staff support younger children's mathematical development. For example, they support children to recognise the numerals on a clock face and encourage them to write these numbers for themselves.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system is effective. Staff establish effective partnerships with parents and know the children in their key group well. For example, when children start, staff gather detailed information from parents about their children's specific individual needs. This helps children to settle quickly and provides continuity of care. Staff skilfully support children's understanding of healthy lifestyles. For example, younger children enjoy making fruit punch to have at snack time. Staff talk to them about the fruits and encourage them to make healthy choices. Children enjoy social mealtimes. They sit and talk with staff and their friends and take pleasure in each other's company.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop skills that prepare them well for their next stage of learning and school. Children are confident in their self-care skills and become independent. For instance, younger children find their own clothes for outdoor play and older children carry out responsible tasks, such as clearing away plates after lunch. Children lead their own play and communicate their needs well. Babies babble, smile and use their first words to express themselves. Older children confidently join in discussions about their own lives and experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY219513
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1064290
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	74
Number of children on roll	101
Name of registered person	Julie Hall
Registered person unique reference number	RP907989
Date of previous inspection	23 May 2013
Telephone number	01621 859991

Daisy Chain Nursery opened in 1991. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, one at level 4, five at level 3 and five at level 2. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm.

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