

Munchkins Day Nursery

44 York Road, Holland on Sea, Essex, CO15 5NN



Inspection date

21 February 2018

Previous inspection date

22 July 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 have good relationships with staff and each other. They freely turn to staff for cuddles and reassurance, this helps to support children's emotional well-being.
- Staff deployment is good and staff supervise children effectively. Staff complete daily risk assessments to help ensure that the environment and equipment are safe.
- Children learn how to take care of themselves and how to manage their behaviour. For example, pre-school children proudly recite a rhyme which helps to remind them to use their kind hands and their listening ears. They respond promptly to staff asking them to tidy away the toys and prepare for lunch.
- There are good opportunities for staff to attend training to help develop their skills and practice. For example, a range of online training courses and regular staff meetings provide good opportunities for staff to update their safeguarding knowledge.
- Children make good progress. Effective tracking of children's development helps staff to plan additional activities in areas where children need further help. For example, staff plan activities to encourage children to use numbers and counting to extend their mathematical development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, some group activities are not fully thought through to provide children with the best possible opportunities to explore and learn.
- Staff do not consistently make the most of opportunities to encourage children's thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the organisation of some group activities to help provide children with the best possible opportunities to explore and learn
- make greater use of opportunities to encourage children's thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery and garden and discussed with the manager how staff use risk assessments to help keep children safe.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents, staff, the manager and the provider during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions relating to children's play, learning and development.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, evidence of staff's suitability and their qualifications.
- The inspector observed staff and children in all areas of the nursery.

Inspector

Sue Mann

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good understanding of child protection and know what to do to ensure that any concerns about children are reported and followed up. They have regular opportunities to meet with the manager to evaluate their skills and practice and request training opportunities. Staff also use this time to discuss their key children and any concerns about children's learning and development. This enables additional support from external professionals, such as speech and language therapists to be sought. Staff complete assessments prior to children going to school and pass these on to teachers when they visit the children. This helps to provide children with continuity in their learning as they start the next chapter in their lives. Regular self-evaluation of practice and the environment helps to continually develop the range of opportunities for children. The manager and staff carefully consider how to use funding to help improve the environment. For example, resources were added to the garden to encourage children who learn best outside to engage in a wider range of activities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, the staff use a good range of teaching methods to help children to learn and extend their knowledge and understanding. Staff working with children aged two and three years encourage them to explore and combine different materials. For example, they provide straws, spaghetti and dough to enable children to create models and notice the different textures when dried spaghetti is rolled into dough. Staff help children to use their imaginative skills while playing with construction toys. Children create pretend spaceships and tigers from bricks and make relevant noise to bring their models to life.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff make effective use of opportunities to help develop younger children's social skills. Babies enjoy sitting with staff to explore paint and the marks they create. Staff use positive language and lots of praise, which helps to raise children's confidence and enjoy the feel of the paint on their hands. Older children sit and play games with staff, patiently waiting for their friends to take their turn. They enjoy learning about relevant cultural celebrations. For example, children use glitter paint to create their own interpretation of Chinese letters. Partnerships with parents are good. Staff greet parents and children as they arrive. This enables parents to share information about their children's interests and learning with staff to help support continuity between the nursery and home.

Outcomes for children are good

All children show an eagerness to learn and excitedly join in with activities. For example, younger children explore a bowl of coloured ice cubes made using paint and use these to make marks on paper. Children are confident communicators. For example, older children talk to staff about stranger danger and why they must not talk to strangers. They have good levels of patience and know when to sit quietly and listen to instructions. This helps children to learn the skills needed to prepare them for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY473000
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1105677
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	40
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Munchkins Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902624
Date of previous inspection	22 July 2014
Telephone number	01255 317200

Munchkins Day Nursery registered in 2014 and is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm throughout the year. The nursery receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery also takes children funded through the early years pupil premium. There are 12 members of staff, of whom nine hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager has early years professional status.

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