

Rocking Horse Nursery And Pre-School

7 London Road, Purbrook, Waterlooville, PO7 5LQ



Inspection date

21 February 2018

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- The new management team is committed to continuous improvement. It regularly reviews the quality of the setting and accurately identifies priorities for development. For example, plans are in place to further develop the outdoor play areas.
- Staff consistently praise positive behaviour and gently remind children of the rules of the setting. Children behave well and learn how to cooperate and share with others, such as using sand timers to negotiate play and turn taking. Children are emotionally ready to learn and progress well.
- The manager ensures that staff-to-child ratios are maintained and suitably qualified and experienced staff work with all children. All staff supervise children well.
- Staff work closely with parents to help meet children's needs. For example, staff regularly share with parents their children's progress and plans for their future learning.
- Staff establish effective partnerships. They build links with other professionals and early years settings that children attend to promote continuity for children's progress and well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently gather all information about what a child knows and can do when they start at the setting.
- The new manager has not had sufficient time to measure the impact of the positive changes she has made to the setting's planning, monitoring and observation process.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the consistency in obtaining children's starting points so that staff can accurately measure progress based on what children already know and can do
- support staff to continue embedding the new planning and observation system and measure the impact of these changes on children's learning and development.

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 carried out a joint observation with the manager and they discussed their findings.
- The inspector discussed planning and children's progress with key persons and the manager. She discussed staff suitability and qualifications, and the setting's action plan with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff about their knowledge of child protection and the procedures they follow to keep children safe.
- The inspector spent time with parents and children and took account of their views.

Inspector

Nina Lambkin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues. They understand what action to take if they have concerns about the welfare of a child in their care. Staff are vigilant and ensure that children are safe in the nursery and when using the outdoor environment. They carry out regular risk assessments and minimise hazards effectively. Clear procedures are in place for the safe recruitment and vetting of staff. Staff are well qualified in their roles. They have completed training to improve practice and keep up to date with changes to legislation. Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They observe and assess children's learning and development, which helps them to plan for what children need to learn next.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan interesting activities that encourage children to engage and concentrate well. Staff support children well in the development of their communication and language skills and talk meaningfully to children as they play. For example, they use simple signs and visual aids to involve all children in activities. Staff identify opportunities to support children in developing their early mathematical skills. For example, children learn early counting skills and money language as they enjoy imaginative play in the 'nursery shop'. Staff provide lots of opportunity for children to engage in mark making. For instance, children use 'story sticks' to retell and write their own stories, recalling details from well-known books they have heard. Children learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others, such as when a local family helped them learn about Chinese New Year.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle happily into the setting and form strong bonds with the staff team. Staff work hard to create a relaxed and happy environment for children. Independence is highly valued and children successfully take care of their own belongings, such as shoes, coats and bags. Mealtimes are sociable occasions and children confidently serve themselves lunch and drinks. Children and young babies enjoy daily fresh air and exercise in the garden. They develop their physical skills and take suitable risks in their play, such as when older children climb trees, while babies carefully balance and crawl across an age-appropriate assault course.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of additional funding, make good progress. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Babies are beginning to speak and communicate using words and signs. Toddlers are curious and imaginative. They excitedly add herbs to the play dough they make and comment that it 'smells like pizza'. Pre-school children practise writing their own names and are keen to learn to write new letters.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489996
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1025938
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	50
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	A Step Ahead Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP905756
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07980586622

Rocking Horse Nursery and Pre-School registered in 2015. It is located in Waterlooville, Hampshire. The setting opens from 8am until 6pm each weekday throughout the year, except for public holidays. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. There are 10 members of staff, of whom six hold a relevant early years qualification at level 3 and one staff member has early years professional status.

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