

Baby Grows Day Nursery

Middlefield House, Marlott Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4FA



Inspection date	20 March 2018
Previous inspection date	11 August 2015

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

- The dedicated manager knows the setting well and evaluates the quality of the provision effectively, to ensure action plans target children's experiences and learning needs. This has had a positive impact on changes to the learning environment.
- Children are very happy and confident to explore. For example, babies make choices in their play and enjoy investigating the natural resources, using their senses to explore touch, taste, sound and sight. Enthusiastic staff engage all children effectively and challenge their language and investigation well.
- The manager and staff monitor children's development well. Children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, and those learning English as an additional language, receive strong support from staff who work very successfully with parents and others. All children make good progress from their starting points.
- Mealtimes help all children to be highly independent. Toddlers and pre-school children pour drinks and serve themselves, deciding how much they want to eat. They share well, take turns and pass the bowls of food around for others to help themselves.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not make the best use of time and resources to support children's learning as well they could.
- Children have limited opportunities to practise their running skills and to learn how to change speed or direction to avoid obstacles.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of activities and daily routines to provide all children with the support they need, to make the best use of resources, staff input and learning opportunities
- increase opportunities for all children to engage more regularly in physical activity, to learn to run skilfully and negotiate space successfully.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors had a tour of the premises with the manager and sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, staff suitability checks, and policies and procedures.
- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning and development.
- The inspectors completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspectors spoke with staff and children at appropriate times, and held meetings with the manager and area manager.
- The inspectors took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Karen Allen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection matters and wider safeguarding issues. The management team ensures staff recruitment and induction processes are robust. Staff have recently attended training about sustained shared thinking and are embedding new knowledge in their practice, to encourage children to be more creative and to think critically. The manager uses additional funding well to benefit children's learning and development. For instance, pre-school children focus well as they explore the digital table, using the touchscreen competently to download and use the programs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All staff know the children very well. They observe and assess children, working closely with parents and others, to plan individual learning opportunities based on children's next steps. Staff engage children well in discussion, extending their language, and give them time to think and respond. Staff provide children with challenges to extend their learning. Toddlers benefit greatly from a focused small-group activity where they learn words to describe what they see, feel and know about certain objects, before staff cover them and remove one for children to identify which is missing. Pre-school children enjoyed making dough, using their early reading skills to follow a recipe. They worked out how best to transport flour from the dispenser to their mixing bowls, and decided which spices to add. Babies explore resources and investigate the feel and sound of different objects.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy a welcoming environment and form secure relationships with familiar staff. Staff follow babies' routines from home to ensure they settle and are content. Staff are good role models and motivate children well, praising their achievements. During a yoga activity, pre-school children enjoyed the challenge of balancing and bending their bodies. Children's behaviour is good. They are kind and considerate towards others. Older children learn how to keep safe. They take responsibility, such as checking the outdoor area for hazards, and use knives carefully as they cut up real vegetables to use in their role play. Children who have SEN and/or disabilities receive individual attention, join in with group activities and benefit from the social learning with others.

Outcomes for children are good

From a young age, all children learn to take care of their own needs and develop strong independence skills. They communicate well with others, making their needs and wishes known. Children develop good levels of concentration and engagement, and are creative. They solve problems and persevere at tasks, developing good mathematical skills. Younger children know that things exist when out of sight, and older children talk about size, length, capacity and position. Children develop a good understanding of the importance of eating nutritious food as part of a healthy lifestyle. Staff prepare children well for their next stage in learning and the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY310439
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1129328
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	134
Name of registered person	Baby Grows Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP524266
Date of previous inspection	11 August 2015
Telephone number	01747 835533

Baby Grows Day Nursery registered in 2005. It is part of the Tops Day Nurseries chain. It is situated in Gillingham, Dorset. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm all year round. A holiday club for children aged five to 11 operates during the school holidays. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 27 staff, 23 of whom work with the children. The manager holds a relevant early years qualification at level 4 and 18 other staff hold relevant early years qualifications, one at level 5, 15 at level 3 and two at level 2.

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