

Merry Poppets Nursery Ltd

BLD 359 D.I.S.C, Chicksands, Bedfordshire, SG17 5PR



Inspection date

19 April 2018

Previous inspection date

29 April 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

- Staff work in close partnership with parents. Staff regularly send information home about children's progress. They encourage parents to share information about what children like, do and learn at home. This helps to support children's progress, both at home and in the nursery.
- Managers use effective methods to involve staff, children and parents in helping evaluate the quality of provision in a focused and constructive way. Action plans are made and regularly reviewed to help managers continually improve the quality of care and education.
- Children enjoy walking along a rope on the ground while they investigate what might happen in a circus. This helps to strengthen their skills in balance and coordination.
- The well-established key-person system is effective. Staff show flexibility and compassion to the needs of families to sensitively help support children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not build on children's understanding of size, shape and quantity.
- On occasions, staff interrupt children's play, which means they are not able to come to a natural conclusion in their play and explorations.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to introduce and extend children's understanding of size, shape and quantity
- enhance opportunities for children to consistently engage in activities without interruption so they can complete tasks to their satisfaction.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside the nursery and in the garden. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the area manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the managers.
- The inspector viewed a variety of documents, including evidence of the suitability of staff, children's progress records and accident records.
- The inspector took into consideration the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Katrina Rodden

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Providers ensure that staff are suitable for the roles in which they are employed. During their induction, staff swiftly familiarise themselves with policies to help keep children safe. Staff know how to report any concerns they may have about children's well-being. Managers monitor staff performance effectively, helping them to identify professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teaching. Staff visit other settings owned by the providers to gain experience of working with different groups of children. They bring back ideas to enhance their own practice. Managers accurately monitor children's progress, helping them implement different strategies to ensure any identified gaps in learning are closed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children very well. They introduce children's interests into activities and play opportunities effectively to help trigger deeper explorations and learning. Babies watch in anticipation while staff blow bubbles. They stretch their arms to catch the bubbles and try to imitate the sounds staff make to describe them, such as 'pop'. Older children plant seeds. They talk about the need for water and sunshine to help their plants grow, helping to strengthen their understanding of the world around them. Staff encourage children to recognise the letters in their names. Children select their name and copy the letters, helping to develop their early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well in the nursery. Staff are positive role models and gently remind children of the simple rules to follow. Children know how to independently use resources, such as sand timers, to help them take turns and share. They are motivated to be kind to others. Staff prepare fresh, nutritious meals and snacks for children, helping them to begin to make healthy choices for themselves. When children first start in the nursery, staff ask parents for information about children's interests, abilities and daily routines. Staff follow sleep and feeding patterns already established at home. This includes accommodating specific needs, such as providing a comfortable space for mothers to breastfeed. As children move through the nursery, they spend increasingly longer periods in their new group room until staff feel that children are emotionally and developmentally ready to stay in the new group.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They work well in a group, confidently speaking and listening to others. They share tasks, such as decorating models of elephants together, helping to make small decisions for themselves. Children learn to recognise numerals and letters and sit for periods of time while they concentrate and focus during activities. Children are eager learners who gain the key skills that help them to be ready to move on to the next stage in their learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407134
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	1102255
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 - 7
Total number of places	85
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Merry Poppets Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527580
Date of previous inspection	29 April 2014
Telephone number	01462 752 855

Merry Poppets Nursery Ltd registered in February 2010. The nursery is situated within Chicksands military base in Shefford, Bedfordshire. It is open each weekday throughout the year and sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. There are 10 members of childcare staff, of whom seven hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 2 or above.

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