

Happy Days Childcare

Ecton Brook Road, Ecton Brook, Northampton, NN3 5DY



Inspection date

30 April 2018

Previous inspection date

23 March 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

- Staff observe and assess children's progress effectively. They plan well and challenge children successfully to reach the next stage in their development using their good knowledge of children's different needs. Children make good progress.
- Partnerships between staff and parents are effective in ensuring that they work well together to meet children's needs. Staff ensure that children who have special educational needs receive the additional support that they need.
- Staff agree a gradual settling-in procedure with parents to help children feel emotionally secure at the commencement of care. Children are happy and confident. A school readiness programme, consisting of visits to schools to meet teachers and involvement in activities while there, is effective in preparing children for moving on.
- Staff support children's communication and language development effectively. Older children express themselves well while talking with staff and their friends.
- Leadership and management are effective with regard to monitoring and evaluating practice to ensure sustained improvement to the provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support children in exploring and finding things out for themselves.
- Staff do not make the most of some opportunities to raise children's awareness of rhyme and rhythm in spoken words.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend support for children to explore, investigate and find things out for themselves
- increase support for children to learn about rhyme and rhythm in spoken words.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision and discussed teaching methods with her.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector took account of parents' views.

Inspector

Jan Burnet

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff regularly attend training and are aware of indicators of child abuse and neglect. Information about child protection is provided in a thorough policy and is clearly displayed on a noticeboard for parents. The nursery premises are safe and secure. The manager monitors staff practice and supervision is effective in providing coaching and training to make sure staff consistently meet children's needs. The manager ensures that she and staff are continually up to date with early years issues. Parents share extremely positive views about the provision. They say that their children have gained confidence since attending the setting and comment on the progress that their children have made. Parents speak very positively about the manager and staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff challenge children effectively while supporting their play. They offer good support as younger children begin to develop their listening and speaking skills and move on from using simple to more complex sentences. Children make marks in a variety of different ways. For example, they build with stacking beakers and with large blocks. Staff encourage them to measure and compare heights as they build and then support children to record their findings. Some children happily make marks on their record sheet and some children are able to write numbers. Children search for toy animals that staff hide in shredded paper. Staff support children's use of positional language well. Older children use their good skills and draw the animals. Staff encourage younger children to mimic them in creating wavy lines, saying that they are drawing, 'Wiggly worms'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a stimulating and welcoming environment. A successful key-person system aids children in building good relationships with staff and other children. Children are settled and emotionally secure. They play cooperatively, show consideration for others, share and take turns. Staff praise children's efforts, achievements and positive behaviour. This helps to boost self-confidence. Children are physically active. Each day begins with a 'wake up' activity and includes stretching, movement to music, balancing, catching and throwing. Children gain confidence and practise skills while playing on large play equipment. Staff support children's interest in the natural world effectively. They support children's learning about healthy eating and provide a good variety of healthy snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children's learning builds well on what they already know and can do. They make good progress in readiness for the move on to school. Children learn to manage their self-care needs independently. They confidently choose and select resources for themselves. Children's pencil control is developing well. They spontaneously count and use mathematical language while they play. Small groups of children use their good language skills while engaging in imaginative role play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297068
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1092156
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	2 - 11
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Happy Days Childcare Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901950
Date of previous inspection	23 March 2015
Telephone number	01604 409280

Happy Days Childcare opened in 1996 and re-registered in 2004. The setting employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, the manager holds an early years qualification at level 6, one staff member is qualified at level 5 and five staff are qualified in early years at level 3. The provision operates for early years children during term time from 8.30am to 3.30pm, and an out-of-school club operates primarily for older children during school holidays. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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