

Spring - Harlequin

Spa Road, WITHAM, Essex, CM8 1NA



Inspection date

16 May 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

- Children are making good progress in their learning. Each key person knows their key children well and appreciates their individuality.
- Staff support children to develop skills that help them to become independent at an early age. Children learn to use cutlery at mealtimes and to serve themselves drinks pouring water from jugs into cups.
- Parents report a high level of satisfaction with the nursery. They say communication is good and staff are reassuring and helpful. Staff work hard to develop and maintain good relationships with parents.
- Staff work very effectively with other agencies to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This helps children to achieve their goals and provides good support to families.
- Children benefit from an interesting and stimulating indoor learning environment. They particularly enjoy sensory play and making vegetable soup.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make a concerted effort to sustain improvements to some aspects of the provision that they have identified as needing enhancement.
- Staff do not consistently make the best use of assessments to plan and tailor teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the focus of supervisory meetings to help staff continue to reflect on their practice and sustain improvements
- make better use of the assessments of children's learning to tailor teaching and planning to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. A trainee inspector accompanied the inspector.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the nursery managers. She looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The senior management team is reviewing and updating policies quickly. Staff understand their roles and responsibilities. They know how to record and report child protection or safeguarding concerns. Staff attend regular supervisory meetings with their line manager. Staff benefit from opportunities to keep up to date with training, such as paediatric first aid that supports them to deal with minor injuries. The team maintains good relationships with the children's centre, and signposts parents to the support services available. Staff help parents with older children attending school, offering a walking bus to and from school each day. Staff are aware of the value of working with other settings that children attend. The manager tracks children's progress ensuring any gaps in learning are quickly identified and addressed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact well with children during play. They support children to work on some of their next steps during free play and routine experiences. Babies and toddlers enjoy exploring the ice, feeling its cool and smooth surface and finding the glitter as the ice melts. Cooking is popular with staff and children. It is a regular part of the planned curriculum for the older children. Children benefit from developing their own ideas during pretend play. They act out familiar scenes from everyday family life. Staff complete observations frequently and write up a summary of achievement for each child every three months. These are routinely shared with parents to keep them informed about what children are learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The relationships between staff and their key children are good. Babies benefit from sensitive interactions with staff. They have cuddles and comfort when they need them. Children behave well. They have good support from staff that helps them to manage their feelings and cope with situations they find difficult. Children learn to share with their friends and to work together. Staff ensure young babies follow home routines for eating and all babies have their own routine for sleeping. Children follow good hygiene routines and staff teach children these important skills well. Staff wear appropriate protective clothing during nappy changing and for serving food to prevent cross-contamination. Children enjoy lots of outdoor time, where they are active in the fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared for the next stage in their learning in school. All children are making good progress. They are acquiring good communication skills and developing their understanding. Children are keen to have a go at making marks and develop this into writing. Children show their number knowledge as they play hopscotch. They call out the numbers as they hop and jump on each square. The oldest children show how their concentration develops. This allows them to really persevere with difficult tasks. Children show a great determination to succeed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539462
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1072187
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 - 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	78
Name of registered person	Action For Children Developments Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP539433
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01376 535275

Spring - Harlequin registered in 2016. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery receives funding for early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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