

Scallywags Day Nursery

48-54 Church Street, Bocking, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5JY



Inspection date

28 June 2018

Previous inspection date

16 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

- The manager values the staff team. She reviews the quality of teaching and provides training opportunities to help staff improve their skills. For example, recent training has helped staff to promote children's language development further.
- Staff use assessments effectively. They identify children's next steps for learning and plan purposeful opportunities to build on their existing knowledge and skills. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff engage parents in their children's learning. They encourage them to share their observations of children's achievements at home to contribute to their assessment. Diversity is celebrated. Parents respond to staff's request to share special family events. They take time to visit the setting, enabling children to explore cultural artefacts and listen to stories.
- Staff conduct daily risk assessments of the premises to minimize hazards. The manager maintains relevant documents, such as accident records. These are regularly reviewed to identify and act on any emerging trends, to help ensure the safety of children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The older and most able children do not always have as many opportunities as possible to explore writing as part of their play.
- The manager does not seek the opinions of parents and use this information really effectively to drive ongoing improvements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- expand opportunities for children to use writing in their play and learning
- enhance the methods used to seek and evaluate the views of parents and focus even more precisely on driving ongoing improvements to raise the quality of practice to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector discussed an evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector discussed with the manager and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through feedback and discussions during the inspection process.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The manager has robust recruitment and vetting processes in place to make sure all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager organises the deployment of staff efficiently throughout the nursery, pre-school and after-school club. This helps to ensure that children are well supervised at all times. Parents spoken to during the inspection say they are very happy with their children's care and the progress they make. Staff work closely with other professionals to support children who attend other settings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff monitor children's progress and take swift action to close any emerging gaps in their learning. Staff promote children's communication skills, helping them to join in conversations. Children learn about taking turns to speak and listen. Staff encourage children's interest about the natural world and challenge them to investigate. For example, they help them to explore change, such as what happens when they add water to sand. Children confidently build castles, and they proudly call on staff to see what they have created independently. Staff make good use of guidance from other professionals to help them meet the needs of individual children. They develop purposeful links with teachers to support children's transition on to school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system works well. Staff arrange settling-in routines with parents, according to their child's needs, helping to support their emotional well-being. Babies and young children develop a healthy dependence on their key persons, who in turn are receptive to their individual needs. Children play in a well-organised environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices and eat nutritious food. Staff support babies to learn to feed themselves. Staff promote children's good health. Children treat each other kindly. Staff throughout the nursery, pre-school and after-school club work consistently to teach children about rules and boundaries that promote good behaviour.

Outcomes for children are good

Young children become familiar with routines and learn how to handle resources with care. They listen attentively and respond well to instructions. Children build models purposefully. Older children learn to count, recognise numerals, sort and match objects correctly. They increase their understanding of changes that happen in the natural world around them as they plant and grow flowers. Children know how to keep themselves safe in their play. They develop good social and communication skills. Children are prepared well for their move to school.

Setting details

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|--|----------------------------|
| Unique reference number | 650124 |
| Local authority | Essex |
| Inspection number | 1101875 |
| 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 | 87 |
| Number of children on roll | 127 |
| Name of registered person | Scallywags Day Nursery Ltd |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP522024 |
| Date of previous inspection | 16 April 2014 |
| Telephone number | 01376 331770 |

Scallywags Day Nursery registered in 1997. The nursery employs 15 childcare members of staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above and one member of staff holds a relevant degree. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am to 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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