

Bright Horizons Muddy Puddles Day Nursery and Pre-School



Binghams Park Farm, Potten End Hill, Water End, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3BN

Inspection date	18 July 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

- Staff are consistent in gaining detailed information from parents about their children's capabilities and care requirements. This process assists key persons to plan a well-structured settling-in period that precisely meets children's needs and respects parental wishes.
- Managers and staff make good use of the systems that monitor children's progress. This helps them to target areas where children need additional support effectively. All children make good progress relative to their starting points.
- Staff keep parents well informed about their children's progress in the nursery. There are good support strategies in place to help children feel confident when they move on to a new class within the nursery or to primary school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for children to explore their creativity during play.
- Parents are not always offered further guidance about how to extend their child's learning at home.
- On occasion staff step in too quickly with answers to questions. This does not always allow children sufficient time to persevere and work things out for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more activities and experiences that promote their imagination
- enrich opportunities for sharing ideas with parents to help them further support and extend their children's learning at home
- strengthen teaching practice to support children even more effectively as they develop their listening, thinking and perseverance skills.

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 managers.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the managers, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector discussed with the managers how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussions during the inspection process.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand their responsibility to report any concerns they may have about the welfare of a child or the behaviour of a colleague. All staff have attended training on the latest government legislation intended to safeguard children. Managers have a range of checks in place to monitor the safety of the premises and the suitability of permanent and agency staff who work with the children. Staff supervise children well at all times. Attendance, accident and medication records are well maintained and monitored for patterns of concern. Evacuation procedures are regularly practised by staff and children so that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency. Clear systems are in place to monitor practice and identify any weaknesses to drive continuous improvement. Staff make good use of professional development opportunities to ensure outcomes for children are good. Parents are highly complimentary about the provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carry out regular observations of children's play and assess their development accurately. Staff carefully plan children's next steps in learning to help ensure that they meet each child's individual needs. Children show an interest in books and stories from an early age. All children enthusiastically sing songs and rhymes that they choose and enjoy. Children enjoy playing games that promote their mathematical development. For instance, they enjoy exploring capacity and volume as they fill and empty various sized containers. Children use single-handed utensils as they make strawberry cakes in the mud kitchen. Babies and toddlers enjoy building colourful brick towers. They begin to learn about sharing as they take turns to position bricks one on top of the other.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's social and emotional needs are well met. Relationships between staff and children are caring and warm. Babies enjoy cuddles and being rocked gently while taking their bottle of milk. All children make confident decisions about their play as they self-select toys. Staff encourage children to maintain a safe environment as they help them to tidy away toys. Children understand and adopt good hygiene practice. They benefit from nutritious home-cooked meals. Children learn about being healthy as they plant and grow herbs and vegetables and talk about different types of foods. All children have plenty of opportunities to play outdoors and be physically active. Children's behaviour is very good. They learn to share, take turns and respect the views of others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children build well on what they already know and can do. They make good progress in readiness for their move on to school. Children are enthusiastic learners and express themselves with confidence. Older children manage their care needs independently. The children enjoy sharing ideas in their pre-school forum, building confidence as their voices are heard.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY544463
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1140997
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	92
Number of children on roll	122
Name of registered person	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901358
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01442 506760

Bright Horizons Muddy Puddles Day Nursery and Pre-School registered in 2017. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6.30pm. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff, a cook and an administrator. 15 staff hold early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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