

Play Away Day Nurseries Ltd

Andersons Road, Southampton SO14 5FE



Inspection date	24 October 2018
Previous inspection date	17 November 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Children are very happy, confident and secure. They enthusiastically attend the nursery and take part in a wide range of enjoyable activities. Staff get to know each child well and value their individuality highly. Their caring approach helps to create a positive, nurturing environment where children build trusting bonds.
- Management and staff assess and monitor the progress that all children make precisely, including different groups of children. There are successful plans in place to offer further support for children who need it, such as those who speak English as an additional language. All children make good progress from the starting points in their learning.
- Staff use songs successfully to help support children's communication, language and understanding of rhythm. Children of all ages excitedly join in with a variety of familiar songs and remember the words and actions well.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Management and staff keep parents fully up to date with their children's development and next steps in learning. They encourage parents to contribute their own observations of children's achievements from home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although management supports staff well, it does not monitor performance closely enough to help precisely identify how to raise the quality of practice even further.
- Occasionally, staff overly direct children's play and do not fully encourage them to think creatively and develop their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer even further support for staff, to identify precisely how they can raise their practice to the highest level
- make better use of interactions with children to fully support them to think creatively and develop their own ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practice and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the managers, staff and children.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation and checked evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector
Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The dedicated management team and staff are reflective and evaluate the nursery closely, identifying areas for development. Recently, they have focused on their support for children who learn English as an additional language. For example, they have added new bi-lingual books for children to enjoy at home and in the nursery, and a translation system to help better communicate with children and their parents. Overall, management supports the continued professional development of its well-qualified staff successfully. Staff receive good guidance and regularly attend relevant further training. After recent training, staff have improved their storytelling and made sessions more interactive and engaging for children. Safeguarding is effective. Management and all staff have a thorough understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns. They monitor the environments and assess risks closely, to help maintain children's safety at all times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe children closely and focus clearly on their learning objectives and interests when planning activities. They provide a stimulating and challenging environment, and children engage well in their learning. For example, two-year-old children enjoy exploring what floats and sinks in water. Staff support children's communication skills very well. For instance, they encourage plenty of conversation with older children and commentate on babies' actions, using simple words to describe their play. Staff encourage children's mathematical skills successfully and offer enjoyable challenges. For example, pre-school children confidently count how many raisins they have for snack and work out who has the most.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's healthy lifestyles successfully. Children of all ages have continuous access to the very well-resourced garden and show strong physical development. They skilfully climb, run, crawl and ride as they explore outdoors. Children confidently manage risks and toddlers carefully hold on to the railings as they explore climbing frames. Children are very sociable and develop strong friendships. They listen to each other well and happily discuss their play, such as when deciding whose car is the fastest or what they should build out of blocks. Staff support children's behaviour well, and children are kind and considerate of others. They proudly celebrate achievements and clap excitedly when they make sandcastles and complete obstacle courses.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all ages are motivated learners and are willing to give things a go. Young children learn new words quickly and older children express themselves confidently. Babies walk from an early age and show curiosity about the world around them. Children enjoy stories and enthusiastically join in, exploring textures on pages and discussing what might happen next. Older children recognise shapes and compare sizes confidently. All children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY229821
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	10060459
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	102
Number of children on roll	110
Name of registered person	Play Away Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902258
Date of previous inspection	17 November 2014
Telephone number	02380230007

Play Away Day Nursery registered in 2002. It is part of Play Away Day Nurseries Ltd, a chain of three nurseries that operates locally and is situated in the centre of Southampton. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 22 members of staff employed to work with the children, of whom, 20 have appropriate childcare qualifications between level 2 and qualified teacher status.

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