

Report for childcare on domestic premises

Inspection date	15 November 2018
Previous inspection date	18 May 2015

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- Staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping children form secure emotional attachments, and provide an exceptionally strong base for children's developing independence and exploration.
- Children are inquisitive and enjoy exploring the natural environment. They imaginatively use a variety of resources to embed learning and develop new skills. All children make good progress.
- The provider and manager work together extremely closely and complement each other well. They are passionate about their roles and demonstrate a good understanding of the nursery's strengths and areas for development to drive ongoing improvement.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. There is a strong focus on fully involving parents and families in children's learning. Staff and parents eagerly talk about the children's current and emerging interests and abilities. They regularly exchange ideas to enhance children's progress further.
- Staff are extremely good role models. They create a positive environment of mutual trust and respect. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are kind towards each other and are well mannered.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of assessments of some children is not rigorous enough to secure consistently the best possible outcomes for all children.
- Staff sometimes overlook opportunities to extend children's thinking skills to higher levels. On occasions, staff do not provide enough challenge to the most able children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- embed monitoring practices to ensure that the learning and progress children make are clearly understood by all staff so they can target the teaching even more precisely
- focus more precisely on providing even greater levels of challenge that help children make more-rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager. She sampled a range of documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff have a clear understanding of their responsibility to report any concerns they may have regarding a child's welfare. Leaders follow effective recruitment procedures. This contributes to keeping children safe. The provider and manager monitor the quality of teaching regularly. They frequently meet with staff and provide effective individual meetings. For instance, all staff are observed and have the opportunity to observe each other. This supports their ongoing professional development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. They model language well and children are motivated to repeat the words that they hear. This helps children to develop their good speaking skills. Staff provide a range of exciting opportunities, particularly in the outdoor area. Children delight in sensory experiences, such as exploring lights and torches in the yurt in the garden. Children thoroughly enjoy listening to stories read by enthusiastic and engaging staff. Children predict what might happen next and use their imaginations to elaborate on the story. This helps to build on children's good communication, language and literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children flourish in the exceptionally nurturing environment. Staff are extremely kind, affectionate and caring. Young children successfully learn to do things for themselves, such as feeding themselves and putting on their coats and shoes. Children show great confidence as they explore the stimulating environment happily and with self-assurance. New children and parents are exceptionally well supported by staff to ensure a successful settling-in period that is tailored to the needs of each child and family. Children's health and well-being are given the highest priority at the nursery. For example, children benefit from wonderfully nutritious home-cooked meals and staff go to exceptional lengths to understand and support children's individual nutritional needs. Children have access to superb outdoor facilities. They enjoy regular walks around the on-site farm. They learn about the different animals and farm vehicles, and are keen to tell visitors about what happens during harvest time. As a result of the exceptional care offered by staff, children's emotional well-being is extremely well supported.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy and have a strong exploratory impulse. Children show good levels of concentration and involvement in activities. Children are inquisitive and ask many questions about the world around them. They learn key skills in readiness for their future learning, including their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY442176
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10070324
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	29
Registered person unique reference number	RP510870
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2015

Pips Nursery registered in 2012 and is located in Saffron Walden, Essex. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Five of the staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3, 4 or 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm.

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