

Cambridge Day Nursery

67a Milton Road, CAMBRIDGE CB4 1XA



Inspection date	22 May 2019
Previous inspection date	17 August 2017

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

This provision is good

- All children have formed strong bonds with the adults who care for them. Babies actively seek out their key person for cuddles and reassurance when they wake from a sleep. Children demonstrate through their behaviour that they are happy and feel secure in the nursery.
- Staff monitor and track children's individual progress effectively. The manager has effective systems in place to monitor the progress of groups of children. This helps her to identify and quickly close any gaps in children's learning.
- Highly stimulating outdoor areas provide children with exciting play and learning opportunities. Children confidently explore the different areas of the garden. They use their imaginations well as they build with construction materials. They explore mud and other natural resources in the outdoor kitchen.
- Children engage in risky play and staff support them to recognise and overcome these risks themselves. For example, they climb large trees and jump off obstacles. Children understand the dangers associated with the fire pit when it is lit and the safety measures in place. They know to call 999 in an emergency.
- Staff form strong and supportive partnerships with parents and carers. They meet regularly to share information about children's progress and discuss their ongoing interests and development needs. Parents appreciate the daily communication they receive via an online application system.
- Systems for rigorously monitoring the teaching practice of staff are not fully effective in raising the quality of teaching to the highest level overall.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use systems for staff performance management more effectively to evaluate the impact of staff practice on children's learning and raise the quality of teaching to the highest 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.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager, deputy manager and one of the directors. She looked at relevant documentation and 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. She also looked at written feedback from parents.

Inspector
Carly Mooney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff receive ongoing support and training to maintain an up-to-date awareness of how to keep children safe. They understand the steps to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The premises are secure and staff are vigilant about children's whereabouts at all times. Electronic communication systems are used throughout the nursery and help staff to communicate quickly with each other in the event of an emergency. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed. The manager and her deputy work closely together to create an ethos of self-reflection and continual improvement. Managers meet regularly with staff, both individually and as a group. The well-being of staff is given high consideration and a good support network is in place.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the nursery. Activities highly reflect children's interests and learning needs. This helps them to be motivated and demonstrate a clear desire to learn. Staff challenge children in their thinking. They encourage them to make decisions and direct their own play. For example, staff ask children what items they might use to build a bridge. Babies enjoy sensory experiences that allow them to explore different textures with their bodies. They touch and smell shaving foam and squashed banana. They show in their facial expressions that they enjoy the feeling of paint between their toes. Children of all ages enjoy listening to stories and singing songs, enthusiastically delivered by staff.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are sensitive, caring and value children as individuals. There are effective arrangements in place to gather information from parents before children start attending. This enables staff to plan suitable activities to help children settle. Children learn to be responsible and independent. For example, older children scrape their plates after lunch and younger children make good attempts to put on their own bibs before eating. Behaviour is good. Children welcome praise for their achievements. Children have very good opportunities to play in the fresh air and receive good physical challenge in their play. Meals are prepared using fresh ingredients and provide children with a well-balanced diet. Staff work closely with parents to help prepare their children for starting school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good rates of progress in their learning. Children show confidence and a willingness to participate in activities. They form close friendships and enjoy each other's company. Older children take care of their own self-care needs. Children develop their mathematical skills for shape, space and measurement. For example, they fill and empty containers in water and sand play. They are well prepared for their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY308230
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10107190
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Cambridge Associates In Management Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP524790
Date of previous inspection	17 August 2017
Telephone number	01223 566323

Cambridge Day Nursery registered in 2005 and is located in Cambridge. The nursery employs 33 members of childcare staff. Of these, 22 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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