

Report for childcare on domestic premises

Inspection date	30 May 2019
Previous inspection date	20 July 2016

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

This provision is good

- The manager is passionate about providing good-quality early years experiences for all children. She is reflective and includes staff, parents and children in the self-evaluation process.
- Staff are very enthusiastic and caring, and establish highly positive, warm relationships with children. The key-person system is exceptional and staff support children's emotional needs extremely well.
- Children's communication and language skills are progressing very well. Staff place a strong focus on helping children to develop their language and vocabulary skills.
- Staff are excellent role models, who have extremely high expectations of all children and celebrate their uniqueness. Staff manage children's behaviour very successfully.
- Children play in a friendly environment with a good range of interesting resources. They concentrate well and delight in exploring the equipment and toys independently.
- Staff do not take all opportunities to offer further experiences for children to access and develop their skills in using everyday technology.
- At times, staff do not fully support children, particularly those who prefer to learn outdoors, to explore a variety of print.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to explore technology, to help them develop their skills further
- enhance children's awareness of letters and words and how print has meaning, particularly for those children who learn better outside.

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 completed a joint observation with the provider and discussed the quality of teaching.
- The inspector met with the manager and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, and policies, procedures, and the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and reviewed parents' written comments.

Inspector
Shan Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and her staff have an in-depth knowledge of the safeguarding procedures. Staff know the signs that indicate a child is at risk of abuse, neglect or being drawn into extreme ideas or behaviours. Arrangements for recruitment, induction and ongoing training of staff are robust. Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities and new staff are supported well. They attend regular staff meetings and the manager regularly shares changes to policies and procedures to keep their knowledge up to date. The manager has developed effective partnerships with local settings and schools to support children's move to school. Parents speak very highly of the care their children receive and how well staff support families.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make accurate observations of children's learning and use this information effectively in order to plan for children's next steps in learning. Staff share thorough information about children's achievements with parents, for example, through daily discussions, parents' evenings and an electronic learning journal. Children play together cooperatively making their own imaginative creations. For example, they pretend to make birthday cakes using play dough and enjoy decorating them using colourful sticks. Staff play alongside the children, supporting children to manipulate the dough into shapes. Children of all ages relish the variety of sensory activities provided. They have great fun mixing flour with shaving foam, transporting the ingredients to bowls and pots using different tools.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children really benefit from expert interactions with staff, and show extremely high levels of independence for their age. For example, young children feed themselves and use cutlery extremely well at mealtimes. Staff successfully teach children about the differences between themselves and others. Together, staff and children look at photographs of their family members and talk about the people who are special to them. This increases children's very strong sense of belonging and understanding of the differences in families. Children understand the importance of healthy lifestyles extremely well through activities such as discussions about healthy eating and oral health. Staff encourage children to be aware of the importance of protecting their environment, for example, through children's involvement in helping to clean litter from their local beach.

Outcomes for children are good

Babies enjoy exploring a wide range of sensory activities, which they relish. Children competently count and recognise colours, shapes and letters as they play. They show a real fondness for books and singing and show high levels of sustained interest during activities. The wide selection of resources quickly captures their curiosity and the most able children are confident talkers in both Spanish and English. Children develop the key skills that will support school readiness.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474805
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10061767
Type of provision	Childcare on domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	89
Registered person unique reference number	RP511240
Date of previous inspection	20 July 2016

La Casita, a bilingual pre-school, registered in 2014 and is based in Hove, East Sussex. The pre-school is open from 8am to 6pm from Monday to Thursday and 8am to 5pm on Friday, for most of the year. There are ten staff, eight of whom hold relevant early years qualifications to level 3 or above. This includes six staff with qualified teacher status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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