

Growing Together Childcare Centre

Newington Children's Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, RAMSGATE,
Kent CT12 6HX



Inspection date	19 June 2019
Previous inspection date	3 April 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Partnership working with parents is very strong. There are highly successful strategies in place to positively engage parents. For instance, staff share information daily and provide detailed reports about children's learning. This helps parents support children's learning at home and have a good understanding of their progress.
- Staff teach mathematics well. For example, they challenge children to solve problems, compare size and count objects within their play experiences effectively.
- The manager and staff constantly reflect on and evaluate the service they provide. For instance, they have developed the opportunities children have to actively engage in exercise and enhance their physical development.
- Staff encourage children to manage and complete tasks independently. For example, children choose toys and resources according to their own interests, and they are actively involved in the preparation of snack and help to clear away afterwards.
- Children make good progress in their learning from their starting points.
- On some occasions, group activities are not used well enough to engage all children in the learning opportunities.
- At times, staff do not fully support less confident children to actively engage in opportunities to play and explore.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of large-group activities to increase the learning opportunities for all children
- review and improve the support children receive to build even further on their involvement in the learning opportunities the setting and staff have to offer.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities, completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions about children's progress and learning.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff's suitability checks and their qualifications, and sampled relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.
- The inspector observed staff's planning documentation and the children's assessment records.

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and staff closely monitor and track children's individual and group progress. This enables them to highlight any delay in children's development promptly. Staff provide children with good support to help them to move on to the next stages of their learning. The manager supports staff to develop their professional knowledge and skills so that teaching continually improves. For example, staff have used recent training in scientific experimentation to create more opportunities for children to investigate in their play. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding procedures to follow to help protect children's safety and welfare. This includes knowing whom to contact to seek advice and follow up any potential concerns. Additional funding is used well to help children enhance their learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess individual children's progress in their development well and plan for their next steps in learning effectively. They include information from parents about children's interests and use a wide range of resources to help develop their learning. For instance, children enthusiastically explore weighing scales with a range of objects to experiment with. Staff challenge the children to use their thinking skills effectively and consider, for example, what side is heavier. Staff give clear explanations to enhance their learning. For instance, they explain how to balance the scales and then raise the opposite side. Staff enhance children's understanding and speaking skills effectively. For example, they emphasise key words during their discussions, such as 'balance', 'equal' and 'heaviest'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff build on children's confidence and sense of belonging well. For example, they constantly praise children for their achievements. The key-person system works well and relationships between staff and children are strong. All children are encouraged to be polite and generally have a good understanding of sharing and taking turns. Children have a good awareness of healthy lifestyles. For example, staff provide nutritious snacks and engage children in conversations about healthy food choices.

Outcomes for children are good

Children have good opportunities to develop their early literacy skills and support their future learning. For instance, older children recognise letters and identify their own names. Younger children enjoy a wide range of opportunities to make marks and give meaning to the marks that they make. Children gain a good awareness of themselves and the similarities and differences between themselves and others. They enjoy exploring the environment, which includes positive cultural images and role-play resources.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY380111
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10108697
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	73
Name of registered person	Thanet Early Years Project
Registered person unique reference number	RP521006
Date of previous inspection	3 April 2014
Telephone number	03000 421 061

Growing Together Childcare Centre at Newington Children's Centre opened in 2008 and is one of three settings owned and operated by Thanet Early Years Project Ltd. It operates from two rooms in the children's centre and is situated in Newington, in Ramsgate, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 3.30pm, term time only. The nursery currently employs nine staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, and one has early years professional status. The nursery is in receipt of funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

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