

Inspection of Seasides Day Nursery

93 Fronks Road, Harwich, Essex CO12 4EQ

Inspection date: 9 October 2019

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Older children enter the nursery confidently and part from their parents and carers with ease. They are greeted by smiling staff, who ask them how they are and engage their parents in discussions about how the children have been since they last attended the nursery. The manager supports and comforts children who are new and require additional support. Once settled, children behave in a way that shows that they enjoy their nursery experience and feel safe and comfortable with the adults caring for them.

Some recent staff changes mean that the key person system for babies is not robust. New staff have recently been appointed, however, they are not yet fully settled in their roles. Babies are receiving care and consideration for their needs, however, they do not currently have a special person to ensure that their emotional well-being and learning needs are consistently met.

Children participate in a good range of learning experiences indoors and outdoors. Staff generally promote children's learning across all seven areas. However, staff do not always plan effectively to challenge children. For example, they do not use clear and effective questioning skills to help extend children's thought processes.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Managers work hard to develop the staff team. However, recent staff changes mean that there are inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and care practices. Managers are confident that once the newly appointed staff are settled in their roles, they can begin building on the team's skills and expertise. Managers hold regular supervision meetings with staff and review their training needs, working practices, home and work balance.
- Children enjoy exploring the wildlife garden for bugs and insects. Staff follow their lead and help them to carefully turn the large logs over to see who and what lives beneath. However, staff miss opportunities such as these to fully capture the children's interest and inquisitive natures. For example, they do not ask the children appropriate questions about what they can see, how many creatures there are or what they already know about them.
- Older children develop good relationships with other adults and their key person, who demonstrate a secure knowledge of the individual children's needs. However, this is not so secure for babies, who do not currently have dedicated key persons. The managers who are providing cover do know the children well and work closely with their parents to meet babies' basic needs.
- Staff generally promote children's learning through the range of resources and learning opportunities they provide. For example, children learn that when they mix dough in two different colours together, it makes a new colour.

- Staff promote children's understanding of keeping healthy. They remind them of the importance of washing their hands before touching food and when they have visited the toilet. Staff apply anti-bacterial gel to their hands regularly throughout the day to help prevent the spread of infection. Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise. They enjoy playing with the cars, bikes and trikes in the garden. They balance on logs and tyres and use tools in the mud kitchen to move dry pasta, oats and mud from one container to another.
- Children have regular opportunities to develop their knowledge of the wider community. They go for walks to the local beach, have hot chocolate at the café and visit local shops.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery and feel that their children are well cared for. They talk about choosing the nursery because it offers their children a 'home-from-home' experience. Managers seek the views of parents to help them further develop and improve the provision.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of the types of abuse and the known indicators that might suggest that a child is at risk of harm. They regularly update their safeguarding knowledge, for example through appropriate training. The manager uses staff meetings and supervision arrangements to ensure staff understand their responsibilities with regard to all aspects of safeguarding children. Managers conduct safety checks each morning before the children arrive to ensure that the premises are safe, secure and clean.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
put in place effective arrangements to ensure that all children, including babies, have a key person to help them become familiar with the setting, build a safe and caring relationship and develop a relationship with parents.	08/11/2019

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

- develop the curriculum to be more ambitious and to provide greater challenge for children

- focus support for staff to help them develop more effective questioning skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY537140
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10100282
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 to 3
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Seasides Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP537139
Telephone number	01255 487422
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Seasides Day Nursery registered in 2017. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager to observe how the provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed adult-led activities and evaluated them with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager, office manager and staff. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the setting.
- The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection and through responses to questionnaires.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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