

Inspection of Umbrella Nursery

Thistley Hill, Melbourne Avenue, Dover CT16 2JH

Inspection date: 8 January 2020

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The nursery provides a homely environment. Children receive a warm welcome from staff upon their arrival and settle quickly to their chosen activity. Staff are calm and attentive. They support children with praise and reassurance. The positive changes to the environment, such as picture labels, support children in identifying and returning play items. Children learn to be independent as they display their own artwork. This helps to support a sense of belonging in children. Staff write captions in speech bubbles to display alongside children's artwork to capture their thoughts and ideas. For example, children share that snowflakes are chilly and wet. Staff encourage children to be polite and show respect to others. Children's behaviour is good.

The key-person system is effective. Staff gather important information about each child, so their individual care needs are met effectively. Children have their own family books which contain photographs of family members. They enjoy looking at the pictures and talking about their family with their friends.

Babies show delight in exploring the sounds of home-made sensory bottles. They keenly grip and shake them with vigour and smile at their achievements. Older children enjoy using their imaginations in outdoor play. They make different flavoured ice creams and share these with their friends. Children learn to care for others as they handle and look after the nursery hamster. Staff ensure children follow good hygiene procedures when handling pets.

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

- The new manager has made lots of changes since the last inspection. She is reflective and proactive in setting high expectations for staff and the nursery environment. The manager and senior management oversee staff's performance to ensure they receive regular support, such as supervisory meetings and appraisals. Staff attend all mandatory training, such as child protection and paediatric first aid, to ensure their knowledge and skills remain current to safeguard children.
- The manager closely monitors the well-being of staff. She is supportive of their individual needs. Staff say they are very well supported and feel confident to approach the manager should they have the need to do so.
- Staff work closely with other professionals to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They implement well-targeted personalised plans to support each child's individual learning. Parents comment how supportive the staff team is in identifying and responding to their children's needs.
- The manager and staff monitor children's progress. They identify and plan for

children's next steps in learning. For example, they have identified that mathematics is an area that requires further development. Staff have placed vegetables, such as potatoes and onions, in pretend play and talk to children about their weight and volume. This increases children's involvement in mathematics in fun and interesting ways.

- Staff provide imaginative and challenging ideas for activities. They encourage children to engage in exploratory play. For instance, babies delight in placing their hands in damp sand and gloop, and older children mix dry pasta as they pretend to cook in the mud kitchen. This develops children's small-muscle and problem-solving skills.
- Staff have attended training opportunities to promote children's language development and use their newly gained skills well. For example, they introduce words such as 'stomping', 'splash' and 'squelch' as children explore the story and illustrations of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. However, staff do not always respond to the emerging interests of children to build further on their learning, such as the bug hotel in outdoor play.
- Staff support children's knowledge of cultural diversity, and children learn about festivals such as Chinese New Year. However, staff do not fully consider how to incorporate the cultural heritage of children currently attending the nursery.
- Staff share information with parents in a number of ways. Since the last inspection, the manager has introduced a lending library with a variety of resources and activities. This enables parents to support their children's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team implements policies and procedures effectively. This includes safeguarding, behaviour management and robust recruitment procedures. They notify Ofsted of any significant changes as required. Staff have made effective changes to the environment. Risk assessments now identify any potential hazards to ensure children play in a safe and secure environment. Accidents and incidents are recorded and shared with parents. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, including the wider aspects of safeguarding. They can clearly identify what might give them reason to be concerned and who they would report these concerns to. They participate in safeguarding quizzes to ensure their knowledge remains current.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to respond to opportunities that arise in children's play, to extend, challenge and maximise learning to the highest levels

- strengthen the planning of the curriculum to reflect the heritage of the children and their families more effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443819
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10119057
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900801
Telephone number	01304203040
Date of previous inspection	26 July 2019

Information about this early years setting

Umbrella Nursery registered in 2012. It is one of 30 nurseries owned by Alpha Nurseries Ltd. The nursery is located in a purpose-built building in Dover, Kent. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. There are four members of staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3. The nursery provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Janet Thouless

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and discussed how resources are set out and how staff implement the curriculum.
- A range of documentation was sampled, such as child protection procedures, staff suitability checks, sick-child policy and action plans for improvement.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and talked to staff to find out how they plan for children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to several parents to gain their views.

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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