

Inspection of Alpha Nursery Rainham

89 Frederick Road, Rainham, Rainham, Essex RM13 8NS

Inspection date: 27 October 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children thrive in this happy and nurturing environment. Staff are kind and welcoming to children and spend lots of time playing with them. They quickly form strong and caring bonds. These secure attachments help children to feel safe and confident to explore the many toys and resources. Children behave well. They respond positively when adults remind them to share toys, or encourage them to use good manners. Children learn good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands regularly and using tissues to wipe their noses. This supports their growing independence and helps to stop the spread of infection.

Children have fun at nursery, and show great enthusiasm for learning. They use resources imaginatively to create props for their role play, such as using a plate as a pretend steering wheel. Older children are curious and absorbed as they explore the sounds of a drum or gong. They experiment with loud and soft sounds, and create simple rhythms. Younger children listen intently to a story about farm animals. They enthusiastically call out the sounds that the animals make, and enjoy examining the toy animals provided by staff.

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

- Leaders value their partnerships with parents highly. For example, during the COVID-19 epidemic, they maintained regular contact with families to check on their welfare and help support children's learning at home. Leaders constantly reflect on the quality of the provision and strive to make improvements. They ensure that staff have regular training to improve their professional skills.
- The provider has introduced new ways to communicate with parents, and include them in their children's learning. Parents receive daily feedback about their child's care and learning via an online app. They can also take part in online discussions with staff about issues, such as bedtime routines, toilet training and healthy eating. Parents speak highly of the staff and appreciate the support and advice that they provide. They comment that their children are eager to get to nursery in the morning, and that they learn a lot during their time there.
- Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve. Those who need extra help are well supported. For instance, staff develop and implement targeted plans for them. They recognise when children may have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and seek advice from outside professionals. Children make good progress and are well prepared for the next stage in their education.
- Staff support children's communication skills very effectively. For example, they talk to children throughout the day, and use lots of repetition to help them learn and remember new words. Staff provide 'visual clues', such as a pictorial

timetable to help children to understand nursery routines and boundaries. Where children are still developing their speech, staff teach them to communicate their needs using objects or gestures. This helps all children, including those who speak English as an additional language, become confident communicators.

- Children are eager and excited to learn. They develop a secure understanding of mathematics. They concentrate well as they sort and order numbers, and call out with excitement when they are able to recognise or match them. Children contemplate how to fit shapes together as they complete jigsaw puzzles. They thoughtfully compare sizes as they stack cups or fit them inside each other.
- Staff know their individual children well and talk about them with interest and affection. They monitor children's progress and plan experiences to build on what children already know and can do. Staff, generally, support children's learning effectively during planned activities. However, they do not always make the most of spontaneous opportunities to extend children's learning further.
- Children have good opportunities for active play. This includes vigorous exercise outdoors each day. For instance, children run confidently, practise climbing and learn to ride tricycles. This helps them to develop strong and healthy bodies. The nursery provides nutritious meals and snacks for children each day. Staff encourage children to sample a variety of foods. However, some staff do not understand appropriate portion sizes for young children. They do not listen when children indicate they are full, and urge them to continue eating.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a clear understanding of the nursery's safeguarding procedures, and understand how to identify possible signs and symptoms of child abuse. Staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare or if there is an allegation made against an adult working with children. The provider ensures that staff receive regular training to update their knowledge of a range of safeguarding issues. This includes risks to children online or from extremist views. She carries out robust checks when recruiting staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Staff use risk assessments effectively to ensure the premises are suitable for children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure that staff understand appropriate portion sizes for young children, and allow them to regulate their own appetites
- strengthen staff's understanding of how to extend children's learning during child-led play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2508014
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	10194448
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 at time of inspection	1 to 3
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	Alpha Nursery (Greenwich) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910956
Telephone number	02084691888
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Alpha Nursery Rainham registered in 2018. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year round. The nursery is registered to offer funded education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs three members of staff to work in the setting, all of whom have a childcare qualification. The manager has a level 6 qualification, and other staff are qualified at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the provider.
- The manager led the inspector on a learning walk around the nursery. They discussed how the provision is organised to support children's care and learning.
- The inspector spoke to some staff, children and parents during the inspection, and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager. They discussed the quality of education and staffs' professional development.
- A sample of documents were viewed by the inspector, including records of staff suitability checks, safeguarding policies and paediatric first-aid certificates.
- The inspector met with the owner and manager to discuss issues, such as recruitment, safeguarding and staff supervision.

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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