

Inspection of Bluebells Day Nursery

21 Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8JE

Inspection date: 18 August 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
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Personal development	Outstanding
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Babies and two-year-olds settle extremely easily and quickly become part of the nursery 'family'. They develop very strong relationships with the caring and attentive staff and benefit greatly from this loving and nurturing environment. For example, babies start their day in their own cosy and sensory spaces. They snuggle onto cushions to share their favourite books with staff, feeling the textures and listening to new sounds. Two-year-olds feed themselves with a healthy breakfast, such as porridge, before finding their friends. They consistently demonstrate excellent social skills and are kind and caring with one another. Two-year-olds play gently with babies when they mix together in the garden and happily include them in all their games.

The calm atmosphere allows babies and two-year-olds time to choose from the inviting, flexible resources. They are highly motivated, use their own ideas and explore and investigate in imaginative ways. Babies and two-year-olds are consistently encouraged to think and solve their own problems. They persevere at new tasks and learn to celebrate their achievements. Babies clap their hands and giggle with excitement as they play. Two-year-olds are proud to be a 'superstar' when they try hard or behave appropriately. This helps to support their growing self-esteem exceptionally well.

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

- Staff are extremely successful in supporting babies and two-year-olds to develop positive attitudes to learning and strong independence skills. Two-year-olds organise their play, confidently making choices from the carefully sequenced learning activities. They learn to make their own decisions, such as whether they need a bib at lunchtime or a coat in the garden.
- Babies and two-year-olds use all of their senses as they play and learn. For example, babies smell lavender that tickles their noses. They learn to try different foods as they feel wet couscous and explore textures with their mouths. Two-year-olds thoroughly enjoy the feel of water as they scoop it from a tray to make 'rain'. They splash in the resulting puddles. Staff extend learning as they support them to carefully observe their wet footprints on the dry patio.
- The manager and staff use outdoor activities as an integral part of learning and development. Babies and two-year-olds are very active and develop good physical skills. For example, they confidently climb, throw and catch or use tools to dig in the garden. They learn about the natural world as they hunt for acorns, watch the nearby cows and grow vegetables for lunch.
- Overall, staff support babies' and two-year-olds' early language development well. They include singing and stories throughout the day and in all areas of the nursery. For example, staff sing to let two-year-olds know it is time for a change

in routine. Staff use exciting activities to encourage lots of conversation. They narrate play and ask questions to help children think about their feelings and behaviour. However, at times, staff speak too quickly to babies and use overly long sentences. This makes it difficult for babies to consistently hear and process the words they need to extend their language further.

- The manager and staff get to know the children and families particularly well. Parents speak very highly of the 'professional' staff. There is a two-way sharing of information that greatly enhances learning and development. For instance, staff follow babies' sleep routines and breast-feeding mothers are accommodated. Parents are encouraged to share in regular nursery events, such as 'stay-and-play sessions', to help them support their child's development.
- The manager is knowledgeable and inspirational. In all the decisions that she makes, the focus is on children's development and welfare. For example, the nursery now uses recycled and real resources that give a wider range of learning opportunities. The manager continually evaluates and reflects with staff, encouraging good practice and building staff confidence. Staff, several of whom are new to their role, are provided with targeted training to build their skills and knowledge further. They describe the excellent support they receive and their well-being is high.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a strong culture of safeguarding. They always have children's safety and well-being in mind. They encourage children to be aware of their own safety. The manager follows safe recruitment practices to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have regular training in first aid and safeguarding. They know how to record and report any concern they may have about a child's welfare. Staff understand whistle-blowing. Managers and staff actively work with families to ensure any needed early intervention happens promptly. The premises are clean, well maintained and secure.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance staff's understanding of how to fully support babies' emerging speech.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113379
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10228167
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 2
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Bluebells Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP523170
Telephone number	01403 711084
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Bluebells Day Nursery registered in 1999 and is located in Partridge Green, West Sussex. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. It is in receipt of funding for children aged two years. There are 11 members of staff, seven of whom are qualified at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Sue Suleyman

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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.
- Room leaders and the inspector completed a learning walk together to discuss the intentions for children's learning.
- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and the children and considered the impact on learning.
- Some parents spoke to the inspector or sent testimonials and she took their views into account.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

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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