

Inspection of Fennies Walton

1 Tennis Close, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1FN

Inspection date: 28 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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's emotional needs are well supported by their key person. Staff get to know the children and provide reassurance and cuddles, particularly when they are new or upset. Children develop their imagination through 'story sacks' and staff encourage them to invent their own stories using props. They make and create a spider from recycled materials and 'pies' in the mud kitchen. A designated Spanish teacher engages with children during their play, to help them learn simple words in Spanish.

Older children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills, such as steering a bicycle with confidence. They develop their hand strength by using large paintbrushes and rollers, to create and make marks with paint. However, younger babies have less opportunity to develop their gross motor skills, for example by climbing.

Children have a healthy, balanced diet throughout the day. Staff monitor food safety well. For example, qualified staff supervise children with allergies at mealtimes and the food is triple checked before it is placed on the table. Younger children are learning self-help skills through their role play. For example, they sit the doll on the potty and put their nappy in the bin.

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

- Leadership and management of the nursery are effective. New staff complete a detailed induction to help them gain the knowledge they need to understand their role within the nursery. Supervision is provided for all staff, including those at management level. This provides time to discuss any concerns they may have and to plan for their professional development. For instance, staff who lead and manage nursery rooms have designated training to prepare them for the senior role. The company value their staff and promote their well-being through a variety of initiatives, such as training on issues outside of the workplace.
- Staff have a clear understanding of what they want children to learn. They focus on babies physical and emotional development, along with their language skills. In the toddler room, they encourage children's communication, independence and social skills. In pre-school, staff support children to regulate their emotions and to become independent learners.
- The curriculum is well planned overall. However, on occasions, the implementation of some activities is not as successful. For instance, when activities are too challenging for babies, they lose interest quickly. Although, staff do act on children's interests. For example, children eagerly talk about a spider's web and staff provide the materials to enable them to make their own web.

- Children are eager to learn. They are generally well engaged in their play. They learn about their own beliefs and that of others, through planned activities. For instance, during Diwali, they listened to a story read by a parent. Staff encourage children's good behaviour. They use positive praise and remind children to use their 'kind hands'. Older children learn to regulate their emotions. If they get upset, staff use the 'breath box' to teach children to take deep breaths in and out, by smelling lemons and blowing bubbles.
- Children's communication and language are well supported. Babies use simple actions while joining in with familiar songs and rhymes. They lie on the carpet, poised ready to jump up and 'stomp like dinosaurs'. Staff speak to children during their play and describe what they are doing. This helps them to hear words being pronounced correctly. Staff use simple signs and photos to help children who need additional support with their speech and language.
- Partnership with parents is strong. They state that the nursery is part of their 'extended family' and that 'staff are amazing'. Parents welcome the advice they receive from staff to help them with their child's learning and development. The special educational needs coordinator provides advice to staff and monitors the progress of children who need additional help with their learning. Staff work with other professionals involved with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This enables them to provide the targeted intervention required.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of indicators that a child may be at risk of harm. Staff at all levels, including the senior management team, complete safeguarding training. This helps them gain a robust understanding of how to assess risk and keep children safe. Managers regularly assess staff's knowledge. For example, during staff meetings, they take part in a quiz to test their knowledge on child protection. Staff supervise children well, both indoors and outdoors. When children sleep, staff sit alongside them and monitor them closely. The company have recently reviewed and updated the recruitment procedures used to check the suitability of staff working with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- continue to monitor and evaluate staff practice when implementing planned activities, to ensure they consistently target children's individual learning needs
- plan and provide more opportunities for young babies to climb, in order to develop their gross motor skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2652425
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10261528
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 4
Total number of places	103
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Fennies Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP528142
Telephone number	020 8770 3222
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Fennies Walton registered in 2021. It is one of 17 nurseries owned by Fennies Day Nurseries Ltd. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.45am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 20 staff, including the chef and housekeepers. Of these, nine hold a qualification of level 2 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Maria Conroy

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 their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity in the baby room with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of 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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