

Inspection of Rainbows Day Nursery

The Pavilion, White Knobs Way, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6RH

Inspection date:

20 December 2022

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

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Overall, children enjoy their time at the nursery and make steady progress in their learning and development. However, there are identified weaknesses in leadership and management and staff's practice which impacts on the organisation of some daily routines, such as at mealtimes, and the health and safety of youngest children attending the setting. These particularly relate to the care of the youngest children and the organisation of mealtimes. Despite this, children are warmly greeted by staff as they arrive at the setting. Where some children show hesitance to come into the setting, their key person offers them cuddles and reassurance, and children soon settle. This demonstrates the strong relationship between children and staff. Children are encouraged to manage their personal care. They wash their hands competently and feed themselves, and older children use cutlery to cut up their food at mealtimes.

Children are happy at the nursery and enjoy playing with their friends and the staff. Generally, they move freely around the setting and are confident to make choices in their play. Older children enjoy walks out in the park, bringing items from the outside world into the nursery to explore. Babies and toddlers engage and delight in sensory play, sprinkling and crunching cereals, which helps to develop their physical skills. However, staff working with babies do not monitor the condition of the learning environment well enough. At times, the amount of discarded resources on the floor makes it difficult for the youngest children to move around easily.

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

- Children are cared for in a secure environment. However, staff do not always take prompt action to identify possible health and safety hazards. For example, before placing young children in highchairs staff place food trays on the ground, staff do not always clean these food trays again before children eat their lunchtime meal from them. In addition, cereal found scattered on the floor after a messy play activity in the baby room is not adequately cleaned up. This results in children treading it into the carpet and a child picking it up and eating it. In addition, in the garden at snack time, plates that have been dropped on the floor are not replaced for the children. This impacts on the health and safety of the children attending the setting.
- All children sit together for lunch, establishing opportunities for children to be part of a sociable environment. However, older children and younger children are served separately by staff from their own room. This means that older children, who are ready first, are served first. Younger children are frustrated when they see food being placed in front of their older peers while they wait for adult support before they can eat.

- Staff act as good role models. They praise children when they behave well and say 'thank you' to them. Children learn about expected behaviours. They generally behave well and play alongside each other. When required, staff resolve conflict quickly and appropriately.
- The age range of children in the baby room is broad, and crawling babies share the space with larger walking toddlers. Babies are picked up and carried around by staff. This keeps babies safe and stops them from accessing resources that are not suitable for them. However, this also restricts experiences for them to benefit from space to move around freely and develop their physical skills.
- Parents comment positively about the setting and report on how friendly and supportive staff are. Staff keep parents informed about their children's learning, offering feedback at the end of each session. In addition to this, the nursery holds regular parents' evenings, where they share next steps and ideas of how parents can support children's learning at home.
- Staff provide some opportunities for children to gain independence skills. Children wash their hands and pour their own drinks at snack time. However, staff do not encourage children to extend these independence skills further. For example, staff lay coats on chairs for children to put on. This means that children wait for adults to help them and do not have consistent opportunities to build independence.
- The manager meets with staff regularly to provide feedback on their practice. Staff access a range of online training to support their professional development, and they speak positively about feeling part of a valued team. The manager holds regular staff meetings, enabling staff to come together and reflect on the provision.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are deployed well and supervise children effectively as they play outdoors. The manager has a good understanding of safeguarding and understands how to refer concerns to other agencies. She provides training for all staff, to ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding knowledge, and they update this annually. Staff know what indicators to look for that a child might be at risk of harm. They know the correct action to take should they have concerns. Safeguarding displays around the nursery act as daily reminders for staff. When a child does not arrive for a planned day, their attendance is followed up to ensure their safety.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
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ensure that the leadership team take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to health and safety risks while attending the setting.	20/01/2023
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- review and improve the organisation of mealtimes to more accurately consider behavioural expectations for the youngest children, to reduce unnecessary frustration
- review and improve the organisation of the younger children's play environment to ensure that babies' play, and their physical, social and emotional needs consistently meet their individual requirements
- increase the support for staff, to promote children's independence consistently.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457163
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10263043
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Rainbows Nursery (Caterham) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532233
Telephone number	01883 330 335
Date of previous inspection	18 April 2017

Information about this early years setting

Rainbows Day Nursery registered in 2013 and operates from a sports pavilion in Caterham, Surrey. The setting opens each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The setting employs seven staff, six of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Natalie Atkins

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 their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children, indoors and outdoors, and the impact of these on children's learning.
- Discussions were held with the manager and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.

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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