

Inspection of Playdays Nursery And Preschool

801 Green Lane, DAGENHAM, Essex RM8 1DD

Inspection date: 2 August 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy a warm welcome from the friendly and caring staff team. This helps them to feel at ease and settle in quickly. Staff get down to children's level to play with them. They are responsive to children as they interact closely checking in with them at regular intervals. They speak warmly and positively to children. This makes children confident to approach staff for reassurance.

Staff plan activities that support children in making progress. Children enjoy exploring with paint and play dough to be creative. Staff plan interesting ways to include and engage children as they introduce early mathematical concepts, such as comparing different patterns, sizes and shapes.

Children's family photos, individual paintings and collaborative artwork are on display. The manager emphasises the importance of this in celebrating individual children and their families and building on their sense of pride.

Transitions throughout the day are well planned. Staff remind children and include them in what is happening next. This means that children are fully included and engaged, so that their interest is maintained. When playing in the sand staff teach children the names of the hidden animals which they happily share with each other. They understand staff's expectations of them. This makes it much easier for them to maintain good behaviour and show care towards each other.

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

- Systems for planning and assessment of children's learning have improved since the last inspection. Together with room leaders the manager supports staff to use their observations of children effectively to identify what the next steps are for children. In addition, staff work with local authority advisers and other professionals to seek advice and guidance to best support their practice. Recent training guides staff in using open-ended questions to challenge children further in their learning. Managers are aware that this is in the early stages, and that further support is planned for all staff in the new term to embed this further.
- Long term staff say they are happy to come to work. They work well as a team, care about each other and speak respectfully of each other. They say that managers make it a priority to support the well-being of staff.
- Staff teach children to develop their independence skills consistently throughout the day. During mealtimes, children learn to hold serving spoons and place food onto their plates. Older children put on their shoes in readiness for outdoor play, while younger children attempt to fasten the straps on their trainers.
- Children have plenty of opportunities for physical activity throughout the day. This includes balancing on the circuit of tyres and riding bicycles and cars

outside. Staff make sure that children are safe, and effectively assess and minimise any risks indoors and outside. They encourage children to understand how to keep themselves safe and help them to identify potential risks for themselves.

- The nursery's special educational needs coordinator works closely with key persons and local authority advisors, to ensure that they secure early help for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Funding is used well to provide additional equipment and resources to enhance the learning experience for children.
- Staff cater for children's specific dietary needs, including known allergies. Parents who provide packed lunches are advised about providing healthy foods. The manager has recently reviewed the menu to raise the standard of health and nutrition, and is aware that further work is required to continue to improve the selection of healthy foods on offer to children.
- Parents speak highly positively about the nursery. They welcome the regular written updates and daily communication with managers and staff. They particularly appreciate the flexibility the nursery offers, and that managers work hard to meet the childcare needs of each individual family.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures and their role to keep children safe. The manager ensures that staff attend regular safeguarding training and that they are familiar with the nursery's safeguarding policy. Staff are confident and aware of the procedures for making a referral, should they have a concern about a child, or an allegation is made about a member of staff. The provider and manager implement thorough recruitment and vetting processes to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The manager ensures required ratios are maintained, and staff complete daily safety checks in all areas of the nursery to identify and remove any hazards. Staff deploy themselves well and always supervise children closely.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- continue to provide staff with detailed feedback about their interactions with children, to strengthen and raise practice to even higher levels
- help children to develop an increased awareness of healthy eating and consider further ways to review the food provided for children, so that this is consistently healthy and nutritious.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY562850
Local authority	Barking and Dagenham
Inspection number	10252070
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	44
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Reliance Enterprises Uk Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP562847
Telephone number	02085995986
Date of previous inspection	2 August 2022

Information about this early years setting

Playdays Nursery And Preschool registered in 2019. It is located in Dagenham and is open Monday to Friday, all year round, from 8am till 6pm. The nursery employs 13 members of staff, of whom 10 staff hold relevant qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Catherine Greene

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector spent time observing practice across the nursery observing the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors. They assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector talked with staff and parents at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager and provider showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff. They also shared a variety of documents to demonstrate how they manage children's health and safety in the setting.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and the provider. They discussed the leadership and management of the setting and considered the impact of this on the quality of the provision.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager before and during lunchtime.

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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