

# Inspection of Bright Horizons Harpenden Luton Road Day Nursery and Preschool

53 Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2UE

---

Inspection date: 5 August 2024

**Overall effectiveness** **Good**

---

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Outstanding

## What is it like to attend this early years setting?

### The provision is good

The staff are very welcoming at this inviting and busy nursery. Children form strong attachments to staff. This helps babies and children feel secure when they are away from their families. Babies and young children snuggle up to staff for comfort, helping them to adapt emotionally to a range of situations and be ready to learn. Staff build children's confidence with praise for their efforts, helping to foster perseverance. This helps children to take pride in their achievements and they are supportive of their friends.

Staff play with the children from an early age and help develop their communication and language skills well. They use clear words, signs and gestures to make sure children understand questions and instructions. For example, at lunchtime, staff ask children if they would like custard. They show the children the bowl so they know what they are talking about. Staff wait for children's answer by voice or gesture and confirm their understanding of the answer to make sure children have been heard. Staff sit with older children during activities and listen to them talk about events from their home life. They ask questions and are genuinely interested in the children's voices. Older children demonstrate their social skills further when they chat with their friends during mealtimes. These good interactions help children to develop skills to be sociable in a range of situations.

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

- The leadership team has high expectations and an ambitious vision for all children who attend. Staff working with the youngest children implement the curriculum well. However, staff working with older children do not always implement smooth plans. This means that, at times, learning for the older children is not meaningful or challenging. For example, during transition times, staff do not always skilfully engage children in activities. As a result, some children lose focus and sometimes interrupt others' play.
- Despite some recent changes in the team, staff report high well-being and satisfaction in their work. They have opportunities to develop their skills to support children's learning. The extended leadership team has systems in place to develop the nursery. This includes the early stages of developing the practice of staff working with the older children and those staff who have taken on lead roles. However, these plans are not rigorously monitored to ensure the impact is effective.
- Staff provide a broad curriculum of activities to help children make good progress in their learning and development. The key-person approach successfully supports children to make good progress. Staff know the families well and ask parents about their home lives and values. This enables staff to focus on building on children's whole-life experiences.

- Children are learning to understand what contributes to a safe and healthy lifestyle. The nursery serves freshly cooked, nutritious food. Children have ample opportunity to develop their physical skills. They balance on beams to develop core strength. Older children enjoy riding round on bicycles, navigating space and developing their ability to be spatially aware.
- Staff help children understand how to keep themselves safe. They help young children walk down the stairs safely. Staff remind children to hold the handrail and walk at a pace that is safe for children. Older children demonstrate they are beginning to understand the reasons for the reminders. For instance, when serving themselves lunch, children explain to visitors that they know the bowl is hot and they must be careful.
- Partnership with parents is strong. This has a positive impact on children's learning. Staff keep parents up to date with progress of their children's development and share ideas of how to help them learn at home. Parents report that their children are excited to attend the setting and have strong bonds with their key persons. Staff provide opportunities for parents to visit and experience the nursery with their children.
- Staff support children to extend their learning through a wide range of activities. Practical activities support older children to learn about how their bodies work. For example, staff encourage children to roll foam into a ball and talk about how they use their hand and arm muscles to squeeze and squash it. Children laugh with delight as they pop foam bubbles.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

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

- help staff to enhance the learning needs of all children, and implement the ambitious vision through high-quality interactions, with particular focus on the older age ranges
- monitor staff development plans more rigorously to help them develop their practice and knowledge further.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY312940
<b>Local authority</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	10356264
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	1 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	110
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	96
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP901358
<b>Telephone number</b>	01582 283506
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	30 January 2020

## Information about this early years setting

Bright Horizons Harpenden Luton Road Day Nursery and Preschool registered in 2005. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspectors

Elke Rockey

Lisa Smith

## Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the early childhood specialist joined the inspectors on a learning walk and talked about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspectors spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The manager and the inspectors completed two joint observations.
- The inspectors held meetings with representatives from the provider's senior team and the manager. They looked at documents, including evidence of the suitability of staff and records of children's accidents.
- Parents shared their views about the setting with the inspectors. These were considered as part of the overall evaluation.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2024