

Inspection of Ashbourne Day Nurseries at Barking

Barking Park Lodge, Longbridge Road, Barking IG11 8TA

Inspection date: 10 October 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Staff provide a safe and nurturing home-from-home nursery. They understand the importance of forming close bonds with children, to support their emotional well-being. Therefore, they place a lot of emphasis on helping children to settle and feel secure. For instance, staff incorporate babies' individual sleep patterns into the daily routines, to ensure that they are well rested and ready to play and learn. Children respond positively to this attentive care and quickly become confident to explore the resources and activities.

Staff have high expectations for children. They model respectful behaviour and use gentle reminders to help children understand the rules and boundaries. Children enjoy the praise given for their positive behaviour, which motivates them to do well. They use good manners and play nicely with their peers. Staff implement an ambitious curriculum across all areas of learning. They ensure that children are well supported to master new skills. For example, as children progress through the nursery, staff foster their independence and teach them to manage their own personal care. Routines, such as mealtimes are well-organised with plenty of time and encouragement for children to practise skills, such as pouring their drinks and eating with cutlery. This helps to build children's confidence and positive attitudes to learning.

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

- Staff regularly observe and assess children's development. They provide targeted support, to help close any gaps in children's learning. Staff consult with parents and work with other professionals where needed, to promote consistency for children. This shared approach helps all children, including children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, to make good progress.
- The curriculum is planned around children's interests and, overall, builds on what they know and can do. Staff use spontaneous opportunities to extend children's learning. For instance, children are fascinated by snails in the garden. Therefore, staff provide opportunities for them to observe, make models and read books about them. However, staff working with older children do not always plan activities with a precise intent. Consequently, teaching does not consistently focus on what they want children to learn next.
- The support for children's communication skills is a strength. Staff plan exciting activities, such as 'bucket time' for babies and toddlers. They incorporate interesting resources, which enthral children and promote their attention and listening. Children benefit from plenty of stories, songs and lively conversations, to build their vocabulary and encourage their speech. Staff also use visual aids, such as objects and pictures. This helps children who are learning to speak

English as an additional language or developing their speech to understand routines and express their needs. Children become confident communicators.

- Staff provide interesting and stimulating activities for children. Their enthusiastic approach draws children in and helps them to enjoy their learning. For example, staff join in with children's games outdoors. This motivates children to run, balance and move their bodies in different ways, which fosters their physical development.
- Children learn to enjoy healthy lifestyles, such as by eating healthy meals and discovering fun ways to be active. Staff talk to them about the benefits of a balanced diet and provide activities to promote good oral hygiene. Older children demonstrate their developing awareness of their physical needs. For instance, they know that they should drink plenty of water and should not eat too many sweet things.
- Staff value children's individuality and help them to explore what makes them unique. This includes celebrating events which are special to children's families and communities. Staff provide thoughtful activities, such as learning to care for different types of hair, which supports children to appreciate their similarities and differences.
- Staff report a positive working environment where they feel appreciated and supported. They have regular supervision sessions with leaders, to help them fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Staff describe good access to training, which includes opportunities to gain or improve their childcare qualifications.
- Parents are very complementary about the nursery and staff. They describe consistent high-quality care, which helps their children to settle quickly. Parents say children thoroughly enjoy attending and make good progress, particularly with their social confidence and language skills. They appreciate the regular feedback, which helps them to continue children's learning at home.

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 working with older children to focus more precisely on what they want children to learn, when planning and delivering activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2722588
Local authority	Barking and Dagenham
Inspection number	10368995
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	40
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Ashbourne Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901058
Telephone number	02082 205674
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Ashbourne Day Nurseries at Barking is located in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year round. The provision is part of a chain of nurseries operated by Ashbourne Day Nurseries Limited. The provider employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine have childcare qualifications at level 2, level 3 or level 4. The nursery offers the government-funded places for childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection activities

- The manager showed the inspector around the childcare premises, she explained the curriculum and how the provision is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of the education and considered the impact on children's learning. This includes a joint observation with the manager.
- Leaders met with the inspector to discuss issues such as staff recruitment, supervision and training. They ensured that relevant documents were available for the inspector to view.
- Parents, staff and children shared their views and experiences with the inspector, at appropriate times during the inspection.

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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