

Tom Thumb Nursery

12 The Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3YA



Inspection date

18 February 2015

Previous inspection date

14 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff promote children's good health well. They enjoy healthy snacks and meals and follow good hygiene routines.
- Staff are positive role models and help children learn to respect and tolerate each other's differences. Children behave well.
- The staff use an effective key-person system. This means they know their key children well. They monitor and support children's individual needs. As a result, any gaps in children's learning are closing.
- The staff plan a good educational programme. They provide interesting and challenging experiences that enhance all children's learning.
- Staff review risks in the environment this means they provide a safe and secure environment that children can explore freely.
- The manager has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements them well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not organise circle times or the time before and after snack and meal times effectively. This means they do not always fully engage children. As a result, some children lose interest.
- Staff do not always ensure that there is a good balance between adult-led and activities children choose for themselves throughout the day.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of snack and lunch times, and circle time so that children do not have to sit for long periods
- enhance the balance between adult led and activities children choose themselves throughout the day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with the manager how she oversees the educational programmes for the children.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including the policies and the procedures.
- The inspector discussed with the manager her self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector talked to parents and considered their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Judith Partridge

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The staff provide a good range of activities to help promote children's learning and development. They organise the resources so children can make independent choices in their play. Young children excitedly explored story books and enjoyed playing with the trains. Staff made good use of these opportunities to enhance children's language and introduce new words. As a result, all children make good progress in their communication and language development. Staff introduce mathematical concepts alongside children's play and routines. For example, they involve the children in laying the table for lunch, which helps children to develop skills in counting and problem solving. However, during the time before snack and after lunch the staff provide a circle time, which does not fully engage all children. As a result, some children lose interest. Staff exchange information about children's achievements with their parents. They positively contribute to their children's assessments and staff help parents to support their children's learning at home. Children make good progress in learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The staff organise a safe and welcoming environment. The children build positive relationships with the staff. Babies enjoy cuddles, praise and consistent reassurance from staff, which helps them to feel safe and secure. Staff provide good opportunities for children to be active and engage in physical play, in the garden and on walks to the local park. This supports younger children to develop their mobility and staff teach the older children why exercise is important for their health. The older children make positive friendships, developing their social skills and self-motivation, giving them skills and confidence in readiness for their move to nursery or school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager has a very good understanding of her responsibilities. She ensures staff implement the policies and procedures to keep children safe and promote their health and well-being. The manager robustly checks the suitability of staff and provides supervision to promote their professional development. Staff attend child protection training and understand how to report any concerns they may have for a child. The manager monitors the quality of teaching to ensure staff plan effectively for children's learning. She reviews the assessments that staff make of children's development. This means any gaps in children's learning are identified early and help provided. The good partnerships with schools and other agencies help to support children make good progress. The manager is committed to making improvements. Since the last inspection, children settle well because there is an effective key-person system.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY312715
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	834360
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	91
Name of provider	Claire Louise Townsend
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2010
Telephone number	01323 647630

Tom Thumb Nursery registered in 2005. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Opening times are from 8am to 6pm. There are several sets of stairs between the different levels of the setting. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two and three years. The provision offers a holiday club for children aged five to 11 years. The setting employs 16 staff; of these, 13 staff, including the manager, hold an appropriate early years qualification. One member of staff has Early Years Professional Status.

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