

Smart Start Day Nursery

Smart Start Day Nursery, 22-23 Overcliffe, GRAVESEND, Kent, DA11 0EH



Inspection date	12 March 2015
Previous inspection date	13 June 2011

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		Outstanding	1
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

- The use of the space in the nursery is very good, and carefully planned. Every area benefits the children in their learning and development.
- The outdoor area is extremely well resourced and children can learn and develop in a stimulating and exciting varied environment.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of children, their background and their needs and what they most enjoy doing. Children feel secure and valued.
- Staff give children's well-being outstanding attention and commitment, and they are developing in their personal, social and emotional skills extremely well.
- Staff provide a strong foundation for children to develop in their independence.
- The provider ensures all staff receive good support, and values their work and dedication.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring processes are not fully secure in ensuring all assessments are of the same high standard.
- Not all staff understand fully how to make the best use of the experiences available to ensure all children have consistent opportunities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring processes to ensure there is more consistency in the quality of assessments for children throughout the nursery
- ensure all staff are consistently making the most of every opportunity to ensure children make best progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to the provider and members of staff.
- The inspector sampled records and documents.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback about the nursery.
- The inspector observed and talked to the children and carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

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

Overall, staff are very effective in their teaching and provide good learning opportunities for children. Staff ensure that children improve their personal, social and emotional development by enabling them to enjoy activities together and on their own. There are a wide range of resources and experiences, both indoors and outside, that children can access to extend their learning. Most staff are skilled at asking children questions and give them time to think about their answers. Children engage in meaningful conversations with staff and other children, to further develop their communication skills. Babies have plenty of space to crawl and learn to walk indoors. Staff use the well planned and resourced outdoor area to extend children's learning about the world around them. However, not all staff make best use of all opportunities to promote younger children's learning. Staff use various activities to promote children's knowledge of numbers and problem solving. This helps to prepare them for starting school. Children are progressing very well in all areas of learning. The development records clearly represent the observations carried out and show how effectively children's next steps are promoted.

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

The carefully planned layout and excellent staffing arrangements mean children feel safe and secure when at the nursery. Children settle quickly and are extremely happy at the nursery. They know staff well and look to them for comfort and guidance. The outdoor environment contains an exciting and interesting range of activities and resources; set in stimulating, individual areas where children can enjoy playing and learning. For example, a mud kitchen and sensory garden. Staff show they are excellent role models and children's exemplary behaviour reflects this. The experienced cook provides a varied and carefully planned menu. All the food is freshly prepared and cooked. Children, even young ones, are able to confidently serve themselves at meal times. Staff provide excellent opportunities to further promote children's independence.

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

The provider and staff confidently use the numerous policies and procedures to keep children safe. Robust recruitment procedures ensure new staff are suitable. All staff are encouraged to gain qualifications to improve their teaching skills further. Effective self-evaluation processes enable the managers, staff, other agencies, parents and children to identify areas where the nursery can improve further. However, there is inconsistency in the monitoring of children's records between different rooms. Parents have opportunities to speak with the key person and managers every day. This means they are kept informed of their children's learning and achievements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345517
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	828495
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	79
Number of children on roll	149
Name of provider	Smart Start Childcare Services Ltd
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2011
Telephone number	01474 332 255

Smart Start Nursery registered in 2007, and is located in Gravesend, Kent. The nursery employs 33 staff, 27 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, to at least level 2. The manager and other leading staff are qualified to level 6 with five other staff at level 5. The nursery receives funding for two, three and four year olds.

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