

Nutkins Nursery

Squirrels Heath Infant School, Salisbury Road, Romford, RM2 5TP



Inspection date

17 April 2015

Previous inspection date

5 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- Children are happy, confident and relaxed in their environment. They develop strong attachments with staff.
- Staff know children well and, as a result, children are making good progress in their learning and development. Additionally, staff use this knowledge to promote an inclusive environment.
- Staff reflect on their practice and the quality of teaching and learning effectively to promote good outcomes for children.
- Staff plan a broad range of meaningful activities to support individual and groups of children. These challenge children's learning in line with their abilities, age and stage of development.
- Staff promote children's independence well through practical routines. As a result, children are able to support their own interests by choosing what they would like to play with.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always ensure that battery operated toys are in working order to support children's learning about how things work.
- Labels in the children's environment are not always written clearly to enhance their literacy skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve labelling so that children can gain a clear understanding of what the words mean, for example, their name
- ensure battery operated toys used by children are in good working order, to help children learn how things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documents, including children's development records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector discussed the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector invited the manager to undertake a joint observation of a daily routine.

Inspector

S Campbell

Inspection findings

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

Staff undertake systematic observations and set realistic targets to continually support children's learning and development. Children show confidence talking to their friends, staff and others within their environment. However, staff do not always write labels within the environment clearly, such as name cards, to help children make connections. Additionally, not all battery operated toys work, which limits children's learning about how things work while taking part in role play. Staff plan effective group sessions, such as story time, that promote children's listening and attention skills. Staff provide good opportunities for children to explore and experiment with a variety of textures. For example, staff encourage children's problem-solving skills as they think about how to get toys out of blocks of ice, leading them to consider how they might use the sun outdoors to help the blocks melt rapidly.

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

Staff are well deployed indoors and outdoors to support children's learning. This helps children to learn to manage risk, for example, while using tyres as stepping stones. Staff ensure that all children are included in the activities by taking time to support newer children in the group. Staff provide healthy snacks and plan worthwhile activities to help children learn about the importance of good hygiene routines, for example, brushing their teeth. Staff consistently praise children for their achievements and efforts and, as a result, children are well behaved and polite.

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

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection procedures so that they are able to act in children's best interests. Staff show that they have a strong understanding of the learning and development, and safeguarding requirements. Management carries out robust vetting procedures and holds regular appraisals and meetings to support staff's ongoing professional development. This promotes good outcomes for children. Staff make effective use of observations and assessments to plan children's next steps in learning and provide challenging experiences to support their progress. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of working in partnership with others to support children with additional needs. This means that children take part in tailored activities to support their learning effectively. Positive responses received from parents confirm good partnership working. There are strong processes in place for self-evaluation. Recommendations at the last inspection have been addressed. For example, staff now support children's communication and language development well through effective open-ended questioning techniques.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY416533
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	845180
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	23
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Claire Anne Lakin
Date of previous inspection	5 April 2011
Telephone number	07956 03498

Nutkins Nursery registered in 2010, and is one of a group of seven privately owned settings. The setting operates within the school grounds of Squirrels Heath Infant School, in Hornchurch, Essex. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area. The setting is open each weekday, from 8.30am to 11.30am, and from 11.45am to 2.45pm, term time only. The setting employs eight members of staff. All staff hold early years qualifications, seven at level 3 and one at level 2.

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