

The Rocking Horse Nursery

229 Cinderhill Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG6 8SE



Inspection date

26 October 2016

Previous inspection date

4 April 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children really enjoy their time at nursery. They separate happily from parents and carers and settle to their chosen play quickly. Staff build strong bonds with their key children. They interact warmly with them and get to know them well.
- Staff plan a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities for children. They follow children's lead sensitively and support them to move on to a different activity when they are ready.
- Children demonstrate very good levels of involvement when they are playing. They are focused and concentrate well. Staff interact well with children and ask them questions to extend their learning even further.
- The manager is well organised and has a professional approach to her work. She has a good knowledge of the statutory requirements. She benefits from support and advice given from the regional managers who are also based at the nursery.
- The manager uses a broad range of documents, policies and procedures effectively. This helps her to ensure that children's safety, welfare and learning is well promoted.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Additional funding is not always used as precisely as possible. This means children do not fully benefit from carefully targeted support to help them to make more-rapid progress in their speaking skills.
- The system for monitoring the quality of teaching does not identify precisely what staff need to do to develop an expert knowledge of teaching and learning .

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of additional funding to provide more targeted support for individual children, to help them to make rapid progress in their speaking skills
- strengthen the monitoring of staff's practice and identify highly focused professional development opportunities that raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Josie Mapes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The nursery is led and managed well. The manager has high expectations of her team and they respond well to her leadership and guidance. Staff are motivated, enthusiastic and dedicated to providing high standards of teaching. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager is up to date with current policy and practice. She is vigilant where children's safety is concerned. She ensures that her team know how to identify a child at risk of abuse, neglect or being exposed to extreme and radical views, and what action to take to protect them. The nursery is safe and secure, and risks to children are appropriately minimised. The manager ensures that there is a robust vetting and induction system in place to ensure all staff are suitable and clear about their responsibilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide high-quality play opportunities for children at all times. They plan rich and varied activities which are based on children's emerging interests and needs. Staff use creative ways to encourage children to listen to familiar stories. Children's curiosity is ignited when staff bring out interesting props to use with their favourite alien story. They are wowed by the sparkly star fabric and enthusiastically launch the aliens into space one by one. Staff encourage babies to thoroughly immerse themselves in a painting activity. They use their hands and feet to feel, print and mix the paint. Even getting clean again becomes a game as they splash about in the warm, soapy water. Older children are learning how to use technology. They enjoy finding familiar letters and numbers on the computer keyboard. Staff point out to children the corresponding digits that appear on the computer screen and children are amazed. Staff know their key children well. They can confidently discuss the progress they are making. Staff support parents with their children's progress at home as well as in the nursery.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have good relationships with children and their families. This helps to build a positive, friendly and welcoming atmosphere at the nursery. Behaviour is good and staff encourage children to respect and follow the boundaries and rules that are in place. Even young children enjoy the responsibility of helping staff with small tasks, such as tidying up or sweeping. Staff are positive and encouraging towards children. This helps to promote children's self-esteem and confidence. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. They have plenty of opportunity to play outside in the well-resourced play area.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress from their starting points. Children of all ages are inquisitive and motivated learners. Babies confidently explore their environment, testing out their physical skills and enjoying the sensory experience of wet paint. Young toddlers demonstrate excellent concentration skills while cutting and preparing real food in the role play area. Older children draw on their real-life experiences to act out imaginary games with their friends. They enjoy looking after their patient and listen to his heart to check that it is still beating. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, such as school and pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	254636
Local authority	Nottingham City
Inspection number	1063851
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	The Rocking Horse Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910236
Date of previous inspection	4 April 2013
Telephone number	0115 9763322

The Rocking Horse Nursery was registered in 1988 and is situated in Bulwell, Nottingham. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year around. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. There are 10 members of staff employed by the setting who work directly with the children. All staff have relevant early years qualifications, including one at level 6, two at level 5, four at level 3 and three at level 2. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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