

A.G.N.E.S Day Nursery

Church Hall, United Reformed Church, Church Street, Bocking, BRAINTREE, Essex,
CM7 5LH



Inspection date	14 December 2016
Previous inspection date	4 February 2016

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

- Following the last inspection, the two managers and the staff team have shown a strong commitment to making improvements to the nursery. They have worked hard and acted on suggestions from local authority advisers to raise the quality of teaching. Staff review the effectiveness of the changes made and the ongoing development plans identify ambitious ideas for further improvements.
- Children enjoy taking part in a variety of activities and experiences. They are curious and eager to explore, both indoors and outside. Children make good progress and effectively develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Children have developed secure attachments with the staff. Cuddles and hugs are shared and this nurturing approach helps young children settle and feel safe.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Information is shared to ensure that key persons have a good all-round picture of children's development. Staff give parents ideas for learning experiences they can offer their children at home. Parents also join nursery sessions to take part in activities with their children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff have effective links with the local school, they have not established highly successful partnerships with all the other early years settings that children attend to fully promote consistency in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the partnerships with other early years settings that children also attend and promote greater continuity in children's learning and development between settings.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good awareness of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children. They know the steps to take if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Risk assessment is carried out effectively to ensure children remain safe and secure. Staff are vigilant and ensure children are well supervised, both indoors and outside. All staff complete the appropriate suitability checks. The managers have regular supervision meetings with staff. Frequent observations of staff's practice highlight any training needs. The well-qualified staff have recently attended a number of training events and workshops. Staff use their new knowledge to enrich their practice, enhance the learning environment and to improve the outcomes for children. The views of parents and children are also sought to raise standards in the nursery. Parents are very eager to make comments about the care and learning the staff provide. They particularly praise the way staff prepare their children for starting school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. The playroom and outdoor area are planned well to promote high levels of motivation, exploration and allow children to follow their interests. Children's vocabulary is developing quickly and they have good interaction with the staff. They use mathematical terms as they count or sort and categorise items according to size and colour. A good variety of outings in the locality is used to help develop children's understanding of the world they live in. Staff accurately observe and assess children's learning and track the progress they make. The managers have a good overview of the development of both individual children and groups of different children. This ensures that no child gets left behind.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well. They learn to share and show consideration for others. Staff are good role models and help children learn to be patient and listen while others are speaking. Children become independent as they select their toys, manage their lunch boxes and help themselves to drinks. They are provided with a good range of balanced and nutritious snacks which helps to promote the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle. Staff provide daily opportunities for children to be active and access fresh air. This helps support their physical development. They practise moving in various ways, such as balancing, running and kicking a ball.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points, including children who have special educational needs or disabilities. Children are eager to gain new knowledge and ask enquiring questions. They show a growing interest in books and enthusiastically take part in the repetitive sections of their favourite stories. Children practise new rhymes and are building up a wide repertoire of Christmas songs. They are friendly and sociable and show consideration for others. These skills help to prepare children well for future learning and in readiness for starting full-time education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339356
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1042973
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	A.G.N.E.S. Day Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP904547
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2016
Telephone number	07804 700 557

A.G.N.E.S Day Nursery was registered in 2006 and is run by group of trustees. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 46 weeks of the year. Sessions are between 8.30am and 4pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who have special educational needs or disabilities.

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