

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Rothamsted Lodge



Rothamsted Lodge, Hatching Green, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JS

Inspection date	31 May 2017
Previous inspection date	10 June 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

- The nursery team has worked hard to meet the actions raised at the previous inspection and raise the quality of the provision.
- Children benefit from a large range of learning experiences. They explore simple science, for example, mixing oil, water and magic beans to create lava lamp effects.
- Children have lots of opportunities to demonstrate their independence, creativity and decision making. Children take responsibility for small tasks.
- Staff and children have strong bonds. Interactions positively support and encourage children's speaking and listening skills. Singing and visual prompts are effectively used to help children, including those with English as an additional language to develop more competence with using their voice.
- Staff engage well with parents and other agencies in providing children with consistent care. Premises are well maintained and secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not always give children the support they need to build on their understanding of what is appropriate behaviour that helps them to keep safe.
- Staff do not always provide a wide enough range of activities to promote the interests of those children who prefer to play and learn outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more support to help them understand what is acceptable behaviour that helps to keep them safe
- provide a wider range of activities to promote the interests of those children who prefer to play and learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents, face to face and on the telephone, during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 one of the nursery managers.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and the senior officer from head office. They looked at relevant documentation, including, children's records and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery. She also discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.

Inspector
Claire Meyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff successfully reflect on and improve practice. Leaders provide staff with regular supervision meetings and professional development support. Any underperformance is quickly identified and appropriate action is taken. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a high level of child protection knowledge and act swiftly to safeguard children. They understand the arrangements for protecting children and regularly review and update procedures. Managers and staff effectively communicate with parents in various ways, such as the parent partnership group and surveys. They continually seek better ways to work with parents, by gathering their views and ideas. This helps them to improve the two-way flow of information that keeps parents informed about their child's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff spend time planning experiences that link to children's likes and interests. They demonstrate strong teaching methods as they support, extend and guide children's learning. Children go on an imaginary bear hunt using real objects, such as grass, mud and fake snow to hunt out the small brown bear. Children work with staff on activities that help them explore shapes, colours and numbers. They like to look at books, discussing the text and pictures. Staff follow company procedures for assessing children on a regular basis. Parents proudly explain how they access these records online, where they also share their observations and comments about their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy their time at the nursery. They delight in the praise they receive from staff and are eager to invite them to share experiences with them. Successful initiatives help children to be active learners, for example, children excitedly move their bodies in time to music during wake up and move sessions in the morning and after lunch. They eat well-balanced meals and robust procedures ensure children with specific diets have their needs effectively met. Children show care and concern for others and learn how to use equipment safely.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. Additional support is in place to help children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those whose progress is less rapid than expected. Children develop good mathematical skills. Staff promote opportunities for this as frequently as possible in children's daily experiences. Children's interest in print is promoted well. They enjoy activities that help them to develop the muscles and movements needed for writing. Children are prepared for the next stage in their learning, including their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123606
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1055619
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Busy Bees Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900821
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2016
Telephone number	01582 462533

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Rothamsted Lodge has been registered since 1993. It is managed by Busy Bees Nurseries Limited. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens on Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.15am to 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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