

Busy Bees Day Nursery at St Albans Hatfield Road



601a Hatfield Road, Smallford, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0HL

Inspection date 15 August 2017
Previous inspection date 22 August 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Leadership and management of the nursery are exceptional and all staff are committed to providing the best possible care for all children. Staff go over and above expectations to support every child and their family. Parents are highly complimentary about the care and education their children receive.
- The quality of teaching and learning is exceptional. Staff have high expectations of all children. They ensure teaching is of a consistently high quality and offers outstanding challenge, with children making excellent progress from their starting points.
- Staff place a high priority on developing children's communication skills. They continually introduce new vocabulary during play activities and everyday routines. They use enhancements, such as multi-sensory areas and 'talk-time baskets', to encourage children to use their imagination and language skills.
- The managers meticulously track children's progress. They analyse the data they collect and make highly effective adjustments to improve children's outcomes. This helps to ensure that all children make excellent progress.
- Exceptional support is given to children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. Staff work closely with external agencies, which helps to ensure that all children have their needs quickly identified and extremely well met.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the already excellent partnerships with parents, particularly to strengthen their involvement in child's learning, to raise children's achievements to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all rooms and the outside area.
- The inspector spoke with the management team, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the suitability and qualifications of staff, children's records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the assistant manager and held discussions in relation to children's learning and progress.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views expressed in surveys.

Inspector

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team provides exceptional support for staff to help ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently outstanding. The highly effective systems for supervision and rigorous performance management work very well in celebrating the excellent practice in the nursery, as well as identifying areas for development. Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff thoroughly understand child protection issues and have a secure knowledge of safeguarding legislation. All staff have undertaken safeguarding training. They know the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child. The management team plans very effectively to move the nursery forward and improve the quality of the provision. For example, they are continually looking for ways to involve parents even more in their children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The nursery environment is full of exciting and interesting spaces, where children can explore and learn. Staff are passionate about their provision and believe that all children deserve fun and meaningful learning experiences. For example, children are keen to mix ingredients to make a pretend volcano and are fascinated as they watch the 'lava' spill over the top. Staff bring books to life and encourage children to act out their favourite stories. Children love to make imaginative resources to use in their stories, such as a gingerbread house. Children are active, keen and motivated learners, who thoroughly enjoy guiding their own play and learning. For example, they become 'garden detectives', using clipboards on which to draw the insects they find in the garden.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The caring, family atmosphere of the nursery enables children to feel extremely secure and happy. They develop exceptionally strong attachments with their key person. Staff are excellent role models. They encourage the concepts of kindness, courtesy and respect for others. They consistently reinforce rules, which help children to have a clear understanding of behavioural expectations and boundaries. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they eat the vegetables they grow in the garden and enjoy nutritious, freshly cooked meals, prepared by the nursery chef. Babies enjoy using their own outdoor space, where they can explore the environment safely with excellent staff support. Older children are encouraged to consider risks as they make their own risk assessments of the garden.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress from their starting points. They thoroughly enjoy learning and eagerly join in activities, using the highly impressive range of resources. Children have fun working in small groups, developing their concentration and listening skills. Children are extremely independent and babies are actively encouraged to feed themselves. Older children become responsible for their own personal care needs. They gain superb early literacy and mathematical skills in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY233068
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1064334
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	76
Number of children on roll	72
Name of registered person	Busy Bees Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900821
Date of previous inspection	22 August 2013
Telephone number	01727 833980

Busy Bees at St Albans Hatfield Road registered in 2001. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. This includes one member of staff with qualified teacher status and one who holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, from 7am until 6.15pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language and children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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