

Rocking Horse Montessori Nursery

26 St. Peters Avenue, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7DD



Inspection date	7 November 2017
Previous inspection date	11 July 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

- Leaders create a culture of professional development. They support staff to gain additional qualifications to improve their understanding of children's development. Leaders follow effective strategies to ensure that staff knowledge remains up to date.
- Staff develop successful partnerships with parents and involve them well in children's learning. For example, staff provide parent packs with top tips for helping children. They encourage children to borrow books from the lending library to enjoy at home.
- Staff ensure that children learn about the world around them and are exposed to different languages and cultures, such as by learning about different festivals. They effectively promote diversity and are committed to ensuring that all children and families are included in all activities at the setting.
- Children are happy and develop positive relationships with staff. Staff use an effective key-person system and know children's individual needs well.
- All children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. Children are well prepared for the next stages in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not consistently have opportunities to test their own theories or develop problem-solving skills.
- Staff do not consistently encourage children to develop their thinking skills and express their own thoughts and ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to solve problems and explore their own theories
- develop staff understanding of effective questioning techniques to help children to develop their thinking skills and express their thoughts and opinions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and staff interactions with children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff and children's records, policies and procedures, and evidence of staff suitability to work with children.
- The inspector observed and interacted with the children, in the inside and outside environment.

Inspector

Kayleigh Fletcher

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. Leaders monitor accidents which happen within the setting and minimise hazards successfully to help keep children safe. Staff confidently recognise signs and symptoms that would cause concern about a child's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff evaluate the quality of the nursery effectively and identify priorities for improvements. The manager implements successful procedures to ensure that staff who work with children are suitable. She monitors staff performance, such as through appraisals and staff meetings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a variety of exciting activities for children to explore, such as music sessions. Children enjoy singing action songs, which helps to support their communication and language. Children learn about the world around them and develop an understanding about how to look after living things, such as the nursery pets. Staff have developed successful strategies for monitoring children's learning and development. They are skilled at identifying next steps for children to help close any gaps in learning. Staff listen to children and follow their interests well. Staff effectively demonstrate new vocabulary for children to hear and to clarify their pronunciation of words, such as through repetition and songs. Staff motivate children to understand individual differences in the wider world. For instance, they implement a language of the month where children learn phrases in other languages, such as Hindi.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and understand what is expected of them. Staff follow a consistent routine to help support children to settle in. Staff encourage children to behave well, such as through use of a 'kindness tree'. Staff effectively support children to understand how to share. They help children to respect each other, such as by waiting their turn during group times and playing games in small groups. Staff support children's emotional well-being effectively. For example, staff celebrate children's heritage by organising a 'round the world feast' each year. Staff encourage children to be independent in their hygiene routines and take responsibilities, such as self-registering each morning. Children enjoy spending time with staff, for instance, when sharing books and reading stories together.

Outcomes for children are good

Overall, children, including those who speak English as an additional language, develop positive social skills and interact with others well. They gain confidence in early literacy and mathematical development. For example, children enjoy creating autumnal shapes with leaves and exploring the 'letter of the week'. Children develop their physical skills and enjoy throwing, rolling balls down tubes and making ramps.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339096
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	1062015
Type of provision	Sessional 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	16
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Vivien Eluned Vincent
Registered person unique reference number	RP514817
Date of previous inspection	11 July 2013
Telephone number	0118 947 7644

Rocking Horse Montessori Nursery School registered in October 2006. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy of education. The nursery is open every weekday morning from 9.15am to 12.30pm, and from 12.15pm to 3.15pm on Wednesdays, during term time only. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs nine staff. Two staff hold early years professional status and qualified teacher status. Four other staff hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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