

Northlands Park Nursery

Northland Parks Children's Centre, Davenants, BASILDON, Essex, SS13 1QX



Inspection date 24 November 2017
Previous inspection date 31 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

- Children and babies enjoy the time they spend in the nursery. They show high levels of motivation as they explore the play areas confidently. An effective key-person system helps children to develop a sense of belonging and build strong bonds with staff.
- The well-qualified staff accurately assess children's achievements and understand their interests and developmental needs. They provide children with interesting challenges and well-tailored play experiences. Children make good progress and develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Staff are calm, patient role models and demonstrate respectful behaviour. Children follow their example as they show kindness, share resources and play harmoniously.
- Self-evaluation is effective. The manager gathers views of staff, parents and children to identify the strengths of the nursery and areas for further improvement.
- Parents say they are very happy with the service provided by the nursery. They are very complimentary about the manager and staff team and how they sensitively offer extra support for individual children and their families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although parents are kept well informed about their children's achievements, staff have not yet established highly successful ways to encourage all parents to share information about their children's learning at home.
- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to increase children's mathematical understanding and skills during play and routine activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore more ways to successfully encourage all parents to share information about their children's learning at home and work together to help children make even better progress
- enhance opportunities to extend children's mathematical understanding and skills even further.

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 two joint observations with the manager and viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and the safeguarding 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

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management and staff understand their responsibilities to protect children in their care. They know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Staff deployment is organised well. This helps to ensure that children are safe and well supervised, indoors and outdoors. An effective programme of staff supervision is in place. This helps the management team to tackle any underperformance, identify training needs and foster a culture of mutual support. Staff morale is high and each member of staff strives to do their best for the children. Recruitment of staff is robust and their ongoing suitability is regularly checked.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have fun as they play and learn. Staff follow children's interests and their learning priorities to plan a blend of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Babies explore using their senses and toddlers have many opportunities to develop their mobility. Staff continually extend children's vocabulary as they play and have introduced sign language. They name the toys that children choose and describe children's actions. They encourage children to talk about what they see and feel when exploring sensory and messy materials. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from established partnerships with external professionals to support their individual needs. Good use is also made of extra funding to provide targeted interventions for children who required additional support.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have a nurturing approach and know the children well. Good settling-in procedures help children and babies to quickly feel at ease. Staff gather information from parents about children's care needs and capabilities before they start. Children demonstrate high levels of independence. Babies learn to feed themselves. The older children take care of their own personal needs and are eager to take on tasks. For example, they distribute plates and cups to their friends and serve their own food at mealtimes. Children develop a positive understanding of the importance of good health and hygiene during daily routines. They enjoy daily outdoor play, riding wheeled toys, running energetically and moving with confidence while negotiating an obstacle course.

Outcomes for children are good

Children and babies are making good progress, including those who have lower starting points. They select toys with confidence and decide where they want to play. Children are curious as they explore and form firm friendships with each other. They play imaginatively and eagerly express their ideas. Children join in with familiar rhymes and also enjoy learning new Christmas songs. The older children learn to recognise familiar words and practise writing their names. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and the eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY294263
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1064643
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 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	85
Name of registered person	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Registered person unique reference number	RP900844
Date of previous inspection	31 July 2013
Telephone number	01268725616

Northlands Park Nursery registered in 2004 and is one of a large chain of nurseries run by the Pre-school Learning Alliance. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 2. The nursery also employs an administrator, cook and a cleaner. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year, except for bank holidays and three staff training days. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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