

Best Friends Childcare

Samuel Ryder Academy, Drakes Drive, St Albans AL1 5AR



Inspection date	20 December 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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 provider, manager and staff are passionate in their commitment to provide a high-quality learning environment for children. Staff support children's learning well, and the quality of teaching is consistently good.
- Children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities make good progress at the nursery. Staff attend specific training, and work with specialists and parents to ensure that they fully support all children.
- Staff speak clearly and introduce new words into the children's play to help promote their communication and language skills. Parents provide staff with useful words and phrases to support children who speak English as an additional language. Staff also use visual images to help children's understanding of daily routines.
- Parents receive detailed information on line about children's progress. They contribute well to their children's learning and share their children's special moments from home to provide continuity in learning. Parents speak very highly of the nursery.
- Children's learning is enhanced by visitors to the setting. Weekly sessions are arranged to help develop their physical skills. They also participate in singing and drama activities, and enjoy Spanish lessons.
- The supervision of staff is not regular enough to be a fully effective aid to monitoring, supporting and improving their practice.
- Staff do not always provide opportunities for children to build on their early reading skills as well as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the existing systems for evaluating and monitoring staff performance to continue to strengthen and build on the good practice already demonstrated
- strengthen opportunities for children to build on their early reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work well together, which helps to provide a welcoming and happy atmosphere within the nursery. The manager ensures that staff are appropriately deployed, and ratio requirements are met. Most staff hold relevant childcare qualifications, which has a very positive impact on the outcomes for the children. Safeguarding is effective. All staff understand their responsibilities to protect the children in their care and know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Recent training has helped to ensure they know how to keep children safe from extreme views or behaviours. There are thorough recruitment and induction procedures for new staff. The suitability of all staff is checked, and robust policies and procedures are in place. Daily checks and risk assessments help minimise hazards to promote children's safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are excited about the many Christmas activities planned for them. Sensory resources, such as a Christmas tray, are used imaginatively so that children can examine different textures and use their senses. Staff in the baby room have a secure understanding of the developmental needs of the children they care for. Children develop their early mathematical skills well. They count and sort objects, and use mathematical language as they play. Staff plan real-life experiences for children, such as posting their Christmas cards in the post box. Staff make good use of technology. For example, children have lots of fun playing computer games and using cameras to take photographs of their models.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming environment for children and their families. New children and parents are well supported by staff to ensure a successful settling-in period. Babies and children develop a strong sense of security and build close attachments to staff. Staff give lots of praise and encouragement. They value children's achievements, which promotes their self-esteem. Staff are positive role models and manage children's behaviour well. Children learn self-care routines, eat healthily and enjoy fresh air and physical exercise each day. They develop their understanding of the wider world, such as learning about people who help them. They enjoyed a visit from a police officer, who talked about how they can keep themselves safe.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all abilities achieve well and enjoy their time at the nursery. They are becoming confident, independent learners. Babies develop their physical skills as they learn to crawl and walk independently around the room. All children enjoy singing familiar songs and rhymes. Older children have fun working in small groups, developing their concentration and listening skills. Children link letters and sounds and make good attempts at writing their name. Children are well prepared for their future learning, including their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY540321
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10089261
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	27
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Best Friends Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP540320
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01727847475

Best Friends Childcare Ltd registered in 2016. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The provider holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery also runs an after-school club during term time only. Sessions are from 3pm to 6.30pm.

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