

Blackberry House Day Nursery (Peterborough)

Park Farm Crescent, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2 8XA



Inspection date 30 March 2016
Previous inspection date 13 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Overall, the quality of teaching is good and staff demonstrate an enthusiastic commitment to children's learning. Staff are well qualified and supported effectively by senior managers to continue with their professional development.
- Older children spend a good deal of time in self-chosen activities indoors and outdoors. Staff skilfully support them, encouraging them to take acceptable risks and develop their independence.
- Children's language development is promoted well. Staff engage children in interesting story times, both planned and spontaneous. They encourage children to talk to them and show them that they value their contributions. Children enjoy singing their favourite nursery rhymes.
- Children's progress is monitored thoroughly by staff to ensure they reach their expected learning goals. For disabled children, those with special educational needs and other children who show signs of delay, staff take prompt action. They work effectively with parents and other agencies to support children's good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the activities planned for younger children and babies do not give them sufficient opportunities to explore, persevere and be independently creative.
- While staff have positive relationships with parents, they do not consistently gather ongoing information from all parents about children's home experiences in order to promote a shared approach to children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a greater range of stimulating and creative activities that enthuse and motivate babies and younger children
- enhance the strategies that engage parents in their children's learning at home and at nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors. She spoke with staff about how they plan for children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views through written comments.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The newly appointed managers are passionate about their roles and responsibilities. They ask for the views of parents and have clear action plans for improvement. Staff are given strong support and have opportunities to share their ideas and good practice with others. Regular in-house training is used to enhance staff practice, particularly related to a specific interest or specialism. This helps to create good teamwork and a positive environment for children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers and staff have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if children are at risk of abuse or neglect. Robust recruitment and induction procedures help to ensure that all staff are safe and suitable to be with the children. Staff deploy themselves well to supervise the children and support their learning. They demonstrate a suitable understanding of health and safety legislation.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide children with enjoyable activities, such as mixing sand and water. They model mathematical language well and encourage children to count out loud. For example, children play hide and seek and count to 10 while others hide. Children delight in playing with tyres in the garden, learning how to clamber through them safely. Regular keep fit sessions, dance and bringing stories to life enable older children to be physically active and thoroughly enjoy exercise. Children of all ages enjoy handling different materials, such as pasta and rice. A well equipped information technology room enables children to use computers and develop their understanding of electronic equipment and games. Children develop their understanding of other people and communities as, for example, they share their family books.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Despite recent staff changes, children build secure emotional bonds with staff. Parents speak very positively about the settling-in arrangements which are very individual to children's needs. This enables staff, children and families to quickly get to know each other. Children are moved into different areas of the nursery with sensitivity when they are ready. All the children enjoy spending time outdoors. Babies and younger children join in play with older ones, developing relationships across the age bands. Staff working with babies are kind and nurturing. They exchange warm cuddles and ensure that home routines are followed. Children benefit from nutritious, freshly cooked foods. Those parents who choose to provide their children's meals are given guidance to support healthy choices. Children enjoy their time at nursery. They play well together and demonstrate a good understanding of kind and sharing behaviour.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children, including those who speak English as an additional language, are well prepared for school. They are sociable and confident individuals who approach their learning with enthusiasm. Nursery staff have well-developed links with local schools, which helps children to eagerly anticipate their move into school. Additional funding is used well to promote all children's good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY451143
Local authority	Peterborough
Inspection number	1043683
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 - 11
Total number of places	106
Number of children on roll	148
Name of provider	Blackberries Childcare (Peterborough) Limited
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2013
Telephone number	01733565009

Blackberry House Day Nursery (Peterborough) was registered in 2013. It is owned and managed by Blackberries Childcare Peterborough Limited. The nursery employs 24 members of childcare staff. The manager holds Qualified Teacher Status. Three members of staff hold appropriate qualifications at level 6. Almost all of the rest of the staff hold appropriate qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7am until 7pm all year round, with the exception of bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The setting provides funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs. During school term times the nursery provides after-school care for children from the neighbouring school from 3.15pm to 7pm.

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