

Bunnies Preschool (Shephall)

1 Featherston Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 9PP



Inspection date

10 July 2018

Previous inspection date

4 November 2015

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

- The effective key-person system fully supports children to swiftly settle into pre-school and prepares them for their move to school or nursery. Children build secure bonds with all staff and fondly talk about how much they enjoy spending time with them.
- Staff consistently use children's interests to extend children's learning and help them to make good progress. Children learn about lifecycles as they observe caterpillars creating their cocoon before transforming into butterflies. They also learn to care for and respect living things as they carefully handle stick-insects.
- The well-qualified team of staff receive regular supervision meetings and have good training opportunities. Staff share the new knowledge they gain with each other. This helps children to positively benefit from new practices, such as new methods to enhance children's speech.
- Staff develop strong relationships with parents to ensure they are fully informed of their children's day and their development. There is an effective two-way flow of information.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not share precise information about children's ongoing achievements with staff from other settings that children attend to fully support continuity in their learning.
- Self-evaluation is not yet robust enough to precisely identify areas of continuous improvement that raise the quality to a higher level.
- On occasions, staff do not fully promote children's attention and listening skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with staff from other settings that children attend so that more precise information about children's achievements is shared
- use self-evaluation more effectively to help develop the good quality of the provision even further
- enhance opportunities for children to further develop their listening and attention skills.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation 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 pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff are very aware of the procedures for identifying and responding to any concerns about a child's welfare. Children's safety is at the heart of every member of staff who consistently follow robust procedures. The manager monitors children's progress thoroughly and takes swift action to address any gaps in children's learning. Staff work closely with other professionals and implement the strategies they recommend to successfully support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are fully aware of children's preferred learning environment. They ensure that both the indoor and outdoor environments are stimulating and inviting. This motivates children to be inquisitive and curious individuals. Staff actively support children's fascination with water outdoors. Children experiment pouring water down a small slope leading to a drain. They discover, through trial and error, how the water drains quickly when they use larger amounts. Staff respond well to children's questions and provide clear explanations. For instance, they help children to learn about the purpose of a watch. Children use complex sentences to recall previous experiences. Staff provide children with many opportunities to develop the small muscles in their hands in preparation for writing. Children concentrate as they use a special pen to move different coloured magnetic beads into the matching coloured pot.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy in this welcoming pre-school. They confidently help themselves to a wide range of toys and activities. Children are responsible individuals. They eagerly help to tidy away the toys they have finished playing with and clear away their plate and cup when they have finished eating. Staff provide children with clear messages of the importance of a good hygiene routine. Children are independent. They manage their own personal needs and help to prepare their healthy snack. Children develop good physical skills. They learn different ways to control a ball during regular football sessions and persevere, spinning a hoop on different parts of their body.

Outcomes for children are good

Children express a keen interest in a wide range of books. They enjoy making up their own stories from the characters that they see on the pages. Children are beginning to form recognisable letters and some independently write their name. They use and recognise complex shapes and use mathematical language, such as 'small' and 'medium'. Children also solve mathematical problems, such as simple addition and learn about symmetry. All children gain the skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414990
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1130936
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Rachel Anne Crossley
Registered person unique reference number	RP515776
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2015
Telephone number	07754305185

Bunnies PreSchool (Shephall) registered in 2010. It employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager who holds a qualification at level 6. The pre-school operates from 9am until 3pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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