

Harwell Day Nursery

Harwell International Business Centre, Curie Avenue, Didcot, Oxfordshire
OX11 0QQ



Inspection date	13 September 2018
Previous inspection date	9 October 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
		Previous inspection:	Requires improvement
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

The provision is good

- Children are inspired by the stimulating and well-presented learning environment. Staff make good use of interesting resources and provide children with many new and practical experiences. Children enjoy their time at the nursery and behave well.
- Leadership is strong. The new manager has implemented rigorous procedures to make continuous improvements to the quality of provision. She and other managers have high expectations of staff and an ambitious vision for the future of the nursery.
- Staff monitor children's progress successfully. They quickly identify children who may require additional support to close any gaps in their learning effectively. All children progress well from their starting points.
- Staff build effective partnerships with parents and other early years professionals. They successfully work together to meet children's needs. Parents are very pleased with the improvements made since the last inspection and their children's progress.
- Managers constantly seek, evaluate and act on the views of parents, staff and children to drive improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, some adult-led group sessions are not fully effective in engaging all children in their learning.
- Children do not have enough opportunities to access and choose books in their home languages.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and adapt adult-led group sessions to promote all children's engagement and maximise their learning opportunities
- increase opportunities for children to choose books in their home languages to support their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held meetings with the area manager, manager and deputy manager and talked with staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at written documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents on the day of the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out several joint observations with the manager.

Inspector

Eileen Chadwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding matters and know the procedures to follow to protect children's welfare. Daily checks on the well-organised environment identify and minimise possible hazards to keep children safe. There have been improvements since the last inspection. Leaders and managers now monitor practice closely across the setting. Staff receive effective support from the management team to strengthen their teaching skills. For example, they have attended training to improve their support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Monitoring extends to different groups of children, as well as individuals. This has led to better teaching for different groups, for example, to support boys' writing.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They are creative in preparing the environment to take account of children's interests and needs. For example, staff played alongside older babies as they investigated toy farmyard animals and sang simple animal songs to extend their understanding and speech. Children explore a wide range of sensory activities. For instance, older children find out about how to make different colours and shades by mixing paint, while toddlers explore the texture of different dough mixtures, sand and water. Staff stimulate children's communication skills well and engage them effectively in conversation as they play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment. They know children well and establish positive and trusting relationships with them. Children form warm attachments with staff and are very well settled. They have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills. They freely explore the challenging and spacious outdoor area. Children carefully negotiate space to ensure they do not bump into each other. Children learn to manage risks effectively to keep themselves and others safe. For example, they use their safety mascot, 'Candyfloss', to help identify and eliminate hazards in the environment each day.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including school. They are confident learners and talkers. Children develop a strong interest in early reading from a young age. For example, older babies enjoy cuddling up to their key person as they look at books and turn pages. Pre-school children recognise some sounds that represent letters and can often read and write simple words. Children learn good mathematical skills. For instance, older children count how many are in the playhouse and calculate if one extra exceeds the number allowed. Children enjoy cooking and finding out about how materials change when baked, such as their healthy mini quiches.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY492874
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10077384
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	92
Number of children on roll	89
Name of registered person	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901358
Date of previous inspection	9 October 2017
Telephone number	01235 821255

Harwell Day Nursery re-registered in 2015 as part of the Bright Horizons company. It runs from purpose-built premises on the outskirts of Didcot, Oxfordshire. It provides care from 7.30am until 6pm, five days a week, for 52 weeks a year. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged three and four years. A team of 28 staff works with the children. Of these, two hold an appropriate qualification at level 5, nine at level 3 and four at level 2.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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