

Starfish Day Nursery and Preschool

19 Boxgrove Lane, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2TD



Inspection date

4 May 2016

Previous inspection date

19 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- All children make good progress and are well prepared for their next stage in learning. Staff plan and provide interesting and motivating learning activities, and children are keen to take part.
- Children have close relationships with their key person and other staff. Children use good social skills; they take turns, share ideas and treat each other with kindness and consideration. Children behave well.
- The manager evaluates the setting effectively. She identifies areas for development and makes positive changes that improve outcomes for children.
- The manager monitors staff performance effectively, including through staff observations, formal appraisals and supervision meetings.
- Partnerships with parents, other providers, and professionals are positive and successful. Children benefit from continuity because of a shared understanding of their care and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Younger children do not have regular experiences to explore and investigate using their senses, particularly in the baby room.
- Staff do not always recognise opportunities to help children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for younger children to use their senses to investigate and experiment with a variety of textures and materials, to satisfy their curious and exploratory nature, with particular regard to the baby room
- seize all chances to help children to develop their emergent writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children inside and outside.
- The inspector conducted a leadership and management meeting with the management team.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents and children and considered their views.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including children's learning journals.

Inspector

Angela Cogan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and her team understand the procedures to follow should they have any concerns. The manager identifies training opportunities for her staff that have a very positive impact on children's experiences. For example, following training, staff have looked carefully at provision for boys and thought about the different ways to extend the curriculum outdoors. Staff use their qualifications and experience well and work closely with other professionals to support children who have special educational needs. They track children's progress to help identify and address any gaps in their development. They plan a range of activities in response to children's interests and needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make detailed observations and assessments of children's learning and use the information to plan a range of experiences to help children achieve their next steps in learning. Children respond well to the planned activities. For example, older children enjoy exploring sand and mud, and make predictions about the effects of adding water. Staff are skilled at extending children's learning. For example, children struggled to make water run down a pipe, so staff helped children to solve the problem and find a practical solution. Staff support babies' attempts at walking well, such as through praise and helping them to negotiate spaces safely. Children have lots of opportunities to follow their own ideas. For example, children enjoyed exploring play dough. They chopped it up into tiny pieces and staff encouraged them to think about quantity and combine numbers, to help children develop their understanding of addition and subtraction.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children benefit from an attractive and well-considered learning environment. Staff support children well to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. For example, children have continuous access to the garden and engage in a variety of activities that support their all-round development. They get plenty of fresh air and exercise, and eat a range of home-made healthy meals. Children build kind and caring relationships with their key person and their peers. For example, older children help younger children to find the things they need when playing in the pretend kitchen area.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are settled and happy. They make their own plans and direct their own play. Children operate with growing levels of independence and confidence, and are really engaged in their learning. For example, older children enjoyed plopping pebbles into water, mesmerised as they investigated the concepts of floating and sinking.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365640
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1028492
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 - 8
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	116
Name of provider	Casterbridge Nurseries Ltd
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2013
Telephone number	01483 877975

Starfish Day Nursery and Preschool registered in 2007. The setting is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm, 51 weeks of the year. A team of 28 staff works with the children. Of these, one holds a relevant early years qualification at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 5, 14 hold qualifications at level 3, and three staff hold qualifications at level 2. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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