

Tiny Toes Nursery

Leverstock Green School, Green Lane, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire, HP2 4SA



Inspection date	20 February 2015
Previous inspection date	24 March 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager is very enthusiastic and has strong leadership skills. She has an in-depth knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements it well.
- Staff have a strong knowledge of child protection, including whistleblowing procedures. They consistently protect children's safety and welfare.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. Staff communicate with them regularly about children's learning and care needs. For example, they share their precise assessments of children's learning and development. Parents are keen to recommend the nursery to their friends and family.
- Staff promote children's early writing skills from an early age very well. For example, younger children enjoy using large paintbrushes to make marks in sand. Staff encourage older children to draw pictures and write marks to share their thoughts with others. Consequently, they ensure that children develop the skills that they will require for future learning at school.
- Staff are very skilled at promoting safety to children with the help of 'Candy Floss', who is the nursery's soft toy 'super safety hero'. Children enjoy learning about first aid and demonstrate their knowledge of the recovery position during a hospital role play activity. Consequently, children develop a very strong understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always fully explore opportunities to challenge children further in order to enhance their learning to the very optimum.
- At times, staff provide children with the answer rather than encourage them to solve problems independently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise all opportunities to challenge children further, including activities that staff consider to be too difficult, in order to promote children's learning and progress to the very optimum.
- enhance children's learning further, particularly their critical thinking skills, by encouraging them to solve problems independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in a range of activities and spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and held a meeting with her.
- The inspector saw evidence of Disclosure and Barring Service checks and suitability, qualifications and training of staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of policies, procedures, risk assessments and the nursery's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector spoke to parents and has taken account of their views.

Inspector

Katherine Hurst

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The quality of teaching is generally very good. For example, when children are drawing a picture of snails, staff enhance their learning by providing books and looking on the internet with them. Children have strong language skills because staff encourage them to share their thoughts and introduce new words to extend each child's vocabulary. However, staff do not always consider how they can challenge children's learning even further. On occasions, they stop children from trying an activity as it is 'too difficult'. Consequently, children do not always have the opportunity to try for themselves and then learn about why they may need help. Staff support children very well to develop their understanding of numbers and quantity. They promote children's use of language, such as 'halves' and 'quarters'. This extends their mathematical knowledge. However, at times, staff provide children with the answer and how to reach the conclusion, rather than encourage them to solve the problem by themselves. Therefore, they do not always promote children's critical thinking skills. Nevertheless, all children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Staff have good partnerships with professionals from other settings that children attend. Therefore, staff consistently promote continuity in teaching and learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children are very happy at this nursery, as staff are caring and empathetic to their individual needs. They warmly praise children when they achieve something, which raises their self-esteem. Consequently, children have confident dispositions and are motivated to learn. Staff support all children to develop their physical skills. For example, babies and younger children benefit from a range of equipment, such as slides and ride along toys, to explore inside. All children enjoy playing outside in the fresh air on a regular basis. This promotes their good health. Children behave very well because staff consistently remind them of what they expect from them. For example, staff encourage children to say 'please' and 'thank you', and model this to the babies and younger children.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager has very high expectations of her staff. She ensures that they attend regular training to increase their professional development and skills. For example, one member of staff has recently completed training about two- and three-year-old children. The knowledge that she gained has helped her to enhance the quality of her teaching during circle time. This has a positive impact on children's learning. The manager is very reflective. She monitors the quality of the educational programmes closely, and quickly addresses areas of practice that could be enhanced. For example, she and the staff are currently considering how they can enhance the newly developed baby room garden to make it more exciting. This demonstrates her dedication to continuously improve, which has a positive impact on the children. The manager supervises staff very well and supports them to reflect on their own teaching and care that they provide. As a result, children benefit from being taught and cared for by a passionately motivated nursery team.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511406
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	848048
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	94
Name of provider	Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
Date of previous inspection	24 March 2009
Telephone number	01442 233275

Tiny Toes Nursery was registered in 1991. It is situated in a building within the grounds of Leverstock Green Primary School, and is managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including the manager and deputy manager who both hold a qualification at level 5. The nursery opens, from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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