

Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery

University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, COLCHESTER, CO4 3SQ



Inspection date

2 June 2016

Previous inspection date

27 November 2012

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 new management team displays a passion, drive and dedication to continuously develop the service they offer to children and their parents.
- Children and babies are happy and confident. They enjoy the time they spend in this welcoming nursery. Children build close bonds with the staff who are kind caring and respond well to their individual needs. This helps children and babies to settle quickly and feel emotionally secure.
- Experienced and qualified staff know the children well and have a secure understanding of how they learn. Children and babies make good progress and effectively develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Children who have special educational needs or disability and those who speak English as an additional language are supported well through strong partnerships with parents and other professionals.
- Children behave well. Staff are good role models and children listen to their clear and consistent guidance. Children play harmoniously and use good manners.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The new arrangements for performance management are not yet fully embedded to support all staff to raise their already good teaching practice to a higher level and ensure children make the very best possible progress.
- Staff sometimes provide fewer rich and varied learning experiences for the children who prefer to learn outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen practice further by securely embedding the new methods used to evaluate staff performance and drive the quality of teaching and children's achievements to the highest level
- enhance the outside areas to provide a greater variety of rich and varied experiences for children who prefer to explore, investigate and use their imagination outdoors.

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about this provider.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the nursery management team, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff. The inspector also reviewed documents, such as self-evaluation form, risk assessment, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The new manager has an excellent understanding of her responsibilities. She has implemented significant improvements since joining the nursery. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff complete training so they know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about the welfare of a child. The manager works hard with staff to ensure all children are provided with a safe, secure and welcoming environment. Following recent incidents when children were left unsupervised in the garden and toilet area for a short time, the manager notified Ofsted in line with legal requirements. The manager took immediate and effective action to rectify security and review staff deployment to prevent the likelihood of such events reoccurring. Policies, procedures and risk assessments in relation to how staff supervise children have been strengthened. Staff now rigorously carry out headcounts to check that all children are present. They have reviewed the layout of play environments so children can be seen and heard at all times. The nursery management team has now started to monitor the key persons' teaching practice more closely. Regular coaching and one-to-one supervision meetings are provided for staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children benefit from the attention of staff who are enthusiastic and make learning fun. Staff ensure that children's interests drive the activities they provide. They carefully plan activities that match children's learning priorities and cover all areas of learning. Staff give babies and toddlers a secure base from which they can explore. The youngest children show great delight as they investigate an exciting selection of sensory materials. Key persons make purposeful observations and accurate assessments of children's development using an online assessment program. Staff keep parents well informed about their children's development. They have started introducing regular consultation meetings to encourage more parents to share information about their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emotional development through offering plenty of praise and encouragement. They consistently foster children's 'can do' attitude towards learning. Children are independent. They serve their own food and confidently put shoes and coats on to go outside. Children demonstrate agility and good coordination skills as they take part in a range of physical activities in the fresh air. They talk about the healthy foods they eat at snack times and mealtimes. Any allergies or special dietary requirements are catered for.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. Younger and older children are captivated and listen attentively to the exciting stories that staff read to them. Children develop their pre-writing skills during a variety of activities. They learn to write captions for display and copy letters of their name. Children develop their own ideas and are eager to solve problems. They count confidently in their play. Staff effectively help children to be confident, purposeful and capable learners who are well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414291
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1052538
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 7
Total number of places	121
Number of children on roll	257
Name of registered person	University of Essex
Registered person unique reference number	RP521128
Date of previous inspection	27 November 2012
Telephone number	01206 873224

Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery was registered in 2010 and is run by the University of Essex. The nursery employs 47 members of childcare staff. Of these, two staff hold early years professional status, two staff have an early years degree at level 6, two staff hold a qualification at level 4, 37 staff hold a qualification at level 3 and two staff hold a qualification at level 2. The nursery also employs two cooks, two domestic assistants and an administrator. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language, and children with special educational needs or disability.

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