

Inspection of Queenborough Babies & Toddlers

Queenborough School & Nursery, Edward Road, Queenborough ME11 5DF

Inspection date:

13 December 2024

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are extremely happy and enjoy their time at the setting. Staff greet them with warmth and care, which helps children to leave their parents with ease. Children feel safe, secure and thrive on the close, secure attachments they have made with staff. They happily play near their key person, returning for comfort and reassurance from them when they need it. This promotes children's emotional well-being superbly well.

Children make exceptional progress in this inspirational setting. Staff are extremely knowledgeable and create a highly engaging environment that gives all children opportunities to thrive, grow and develop. From the very beginning, staff gain detailed information about children's backgrounds and what they know and can do before they start. They use this information to create a unique, challenging curriculum. Staff use children's interests and next steps to ensure they pitch their learning intentions at the precise level needed to challenge them in their next stage of development. This helps all children flourish.

Staff are fantastic role models. They have extremely high expectations for all children. They demonstrate how to share and take turns as appropriate for the stage of the development of each child. Children's behaviour is exceptional. Very young toddlers wait patiently for their turn to push a ball down a hole in a game, and when it rolls out, they get the ball and wait their turn again. They show exemplary levels of patience and gain excellent social skills for their age.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff are highly skilled in supporting young children to develop their language and communication skills. They are quick to recognise any cues babies give, such as pointing or looking at objects, as their way to communicate. Staff name objects to help toddler's growing vocabulary, such as 'sheep' when playing with farm animals. They sing 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' to introduce the animal sounds, which toddlers delight in. These enriching experiences are highly successful at supporting children to expand their vocabulary.
- The arrangements for settling children in are inspirational. Babies are gently introduced to the setting through short visits that are built on when they are feeling more confident to be left. This helps to support their well-being. When moving to the on-site nursery, toddlers and their key person make frequent visits so they feel confident with the environment, staff and children. When it is time to move up, their key person moves with them to the nursery and continues to work with them. This seamlessly supports children's continuity of care.
- Staff expertly support children's physical development. They are skilled at recognising when they are ready for their next stage in learning. For example,

when babies are ready to crawl, staff place objects of interest just out of reach to encourage them to move towards them. Toddlers develop their large muscle skills through a well-thought-out physical environment indoors. They climb, balance and roll on large sponge shapes. Outside they play on a wide range of equipment to help them develop new skills. Visits to the on-site nursery allow them to be challenged further with more difficult equipment. This careful planning ensures all children are making exceptional progress in their physical development.

- Staff ensure that the environment promotes independence. Resources are placed in easy reach of all children to maximise their choice. Staff follow each child's unique routines. For example, each child is fed at a time when they are hungry. The staff promote children to self-regulate their own needs. For example, they leave the sleep room door open so mobile children can choose when they wish to sleep.
- Staff feel exceptionally well supported by the management team. They have regular supervision, access to an on-site counsellor and report that they feel their voice is heard. For example, the management team recognise when staff's workload is getting too much and put measures in place to reduce it. There is a high priority placed on supporting staff's professional development to continuously maintain the high quality of education children receive.
- Managers are highly reflective and extremely passionate about continuously raising the quality of service to the highest level. They undertake regular assessments of the setting to ensure that it always offers the very best opportunities for all that attend. They value the importance of developing children's vocabulary and work closely with a speech and language therapist to offer any extra support needed. Access to food banks and training for parents ensures that staff support the needs of the whole family exceptionally well.
- Parents are delighted with the care their children receive and feel well informed. They feel their uniqueness and backgrounds are valued. Parents comment very positively on the daily communications the staff share and speak highly of staff and the connection they have with their children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interest first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2698954
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10372119
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 2
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	EKC Schools Trust Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2698952
Telephone number	01795 662574
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Queenborough Babies & Toddlers registered in 2022 and is situated in Queenborough Primary School, Queenborough, Kent. The baby and toddler unit operates term time only. It opens Monday to Thursday, 8am to 5pm, and on Friday 8am to 4.30pm. There are 4 members of staff, all of whom hold childcare qualifications at level 3. Senior management are qualified primary school teachers. The provider receives funding to provide care and early education for children aged nine months to two-years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Janine Scott

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and evaluated the learning that had taken place.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the verbal and written views of parents.

We carried out this inspection 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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