

Horn End Nursery

Egg Lane, Hixon, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST18 0PR



Inspection date

7 August 2017

Previous inspection date

12 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager is inspirational and combines her excellent understanding of how children learn with her strong management skills to continuously support and develop all staff. For example, she videos staff interacting with children and helps them identify further improvements. This has helped raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.
- Staff form an excellent working partnership with parents to help provide exceptional continuity in children's learning. The manager provides parents with useful information based on recent research, such as effective communication with babies and creative ideas. Parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress and welfare.
- Staff provide an exceptionally stimulating and motivating environment that captivates children's imagination. Children respond with enthusiasm as they explore and develop their own ideas. For example, they decide to use oranges to extinguish a volcano they have made and staff help them to work out how to extract the juice.
- All children demonstrate high levels of independence. Babies are extremely motivated to complete everyday tasks for themselves, such as pouring drinks and attaching a lid to their cup. They learn to recognise their own needs and decide when they need to sleep.
- Staff use their highly focused observations of children's learning to make precise assessments and identify how to enhance children's play further. They identify and address any gaps in children's learning promptly. Children make outstanding progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how to extend further the already excellent opportunities for children to develop their early literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the setting's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.

Inspector

Anne Clift

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager and provider review the provision meticulously and have a clear vision for the future. They consult with staff, parents, other professionals and children to seek new and innovative ways to further improve the excellent opportunities for all children. For example, recent training has helped staff identify how to increase mathematical learning opportunities as children play. Children's safety and welfare are always prioritised and staff are extremely vigilant. Registers of attendance are maintained accurately and accidents are logged. Staff have an excellent understanding of child protection procedures and what to do should children be at risk of harm. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their expert understanding of how young children learn in order to enhance their play and inspire new discoveries. For example, after sharing a book about self-care, babies eagerly explore a collection of hair styling products. They are fascinated as they feel air squeezed out of bottles, explore the texture of curlers and experiment with combing their hair. Children relish the many opportunities to practise their writing skills. For example, older children are fascinated as they make marks in a darkened room with luminous pens and use technology to change the colour of their writing. Babies delight in sensory experiences as they make marks with spaghetti. Staff are now considering how they can further extend the excellent practice in teaching older children letters and their sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are excellent role models and children develop a deep understanding of their high expectations. Children learn about people in the community and understand that different languages are spoken. They sing songs from around the world and learn the meaning of some words. Staff provide outstanding support to children and their families in a successful range of health initiatives. For example, they provide information about the varying dietary requirements of babies and young children and organise active family events, such as bike rides and mud walks. Children thoroughly enjoy energetic dance sessions. Their emotional security is fostered expertly. Children take pride in sharing photographs and personal items from home and benefit from the comfort they bring.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children delight in the freedom to be creative. They decide to create figures using vegetables and carve features, such as a mouth. Children make links and investigate their ideas, such as collecting objects that roll. They make rapid progress with their language development. Babies communicate their needs and wishes confidently using single words and sign language, and older children use adventurous vocabulary. Children flourish. They are extremely well equipped with the skills needed for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218439
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1101794
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Deborah Barton
Registered person unique reference number	RP513149
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2014
Telephone number	01889 271051

Horn End Nursery registered in 1990. It opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5.45pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, one holds level 4, five hold level 3 and one holds level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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