

Inspection of Bluebirds Day Nursery

68 London Road, GRAYS, Essex RM17 5XX

Inspection date: 13 August 2024

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming nursery environment. They develop secure relationships with the friendly and nurturing staff. This helps children to feel safe and secure. Staff know and follow children's care routines, ensuring their individual needs are met. Children enjoy exploring the environment and make their own play choices. Older children confidently access different resources to help them adapt and change their play. For example, they find small toy cars to put inside the tunnels they build.

Children learn the behaviour expectations at the nursery through age-appropriate 'golden rules'. Staff encourage them to use polite language, such as 'please' and 'thank you'. Children play together well. When there are any minor disputes, staff gently remind children to wait their turn and share the toys with others. Children eagerly show staff their achievements and proudly clap and dance when staff praise them. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children have many opportunities to build on their physical development through play. For example, there are a variety of resources outside, such as a slide, trikes and climbing apparatus, to support children to strengthen their large muscles. Inside, babies use small spades to scoop sand and toddlers pour water into different-sized containers, helping to build their small hand muscles in preparation for early writing skills. Older children enthusiastically join in physical activities such as daily dance sessions, helping to support their physical fitness.

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

- The managers are dedicated and have a clear and ambitious vision for the nursery. They strive to provide high-quality, inclusive care and education for all children. The staff team members place a high priority on getting to know each child and family well to understand their needs. They provide parents with a wealth of information and advice to support them and their children. For example, they have arranged for parents to have access to free online training provided by the local authority.
- The management team members gather the views of parents and staff to reflect on how they can raise the quality of the provision further. For example, plans are in place to provide children with opportunities to learn more about nature in environments outside of the nursery. Staff are encouraged to engage with training opportunities to develop their practice further. The management team places a high priority on staff's well-being, and staff say they feel supported.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported extremely well. Managers work closely with parents and external professionals to ensure children swiftly receive the additional help they need. Individual plans are

put in place and shared with staff to help children work towards achievable targets and make progress in their individual learning and development. Additional funding is used effectively to support children's individual needs, such as through the purchase of specific resources and additional one-to-one support.

- Staff know children well and plan a broad curriculum to help them make progress in all areas of learning. They use assessment effectively to monitor children's progress and to identify what they need to know or do next. However, sometimes, staff do not always ensure they consistently provide sufficient challenge for the older and most-able children. For example, while children play with magnetic shapes, staff do not always use this to extend their mathematical knowledge even further.
- Staff support children's language development well. Children benefit from daily singing, rhymes and story times. Staff engage with babies and young children as they play, naming objects and talking about what they are doing, helping to broaden their vocabulary. Older children enjoy engaging in group discussions, helping to promote their confidence.
- Children enjoy a variety of healthy snacks and cooked meals. Babies and toddlers are encouraged to feed themselves with spoons. Older children proudly complete small tasks, such as setting out the cutlery at lunchtime. From a young age, children are encouraged to take off and put on their own shoes and coats to play outside. Children learn good hygiene practices, for example they wash their hands after playing in the garden and before eating. This helps to promote children's independence and to prepare them for the next stage in their learning, including school.
- Parents say their children enjoy coming to the nursery and make good progress. They say staff are 'amazing' and 'supportive'. Parents say that they have regular discussions and meetings and receive information via an online app, including advice on how they can support children's learning and development at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to challenge and extend the older and most-able children's learning more effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY448795
Local authority	Thurrock
Inspection number	10351816
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Bluebirds Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP530442
Telephone number	01375 768252
Date of previous inspection	19 October 2018

Information about this early years setting

Bluebirds Day Nursery registered in 2012. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the managers, who each hold early years teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the early education of two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Marisa White

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The managers and the inspector completed a learning walk of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with a manager and they evaluated this together.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including the suitability checks of all adults working in the setting.

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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