

Squiggles Childcare

Walker House, London Road, Riverhead, SEVENOAKS, Kent, TN13 2DN



Inspection date

6 July 2017

Previous inspection date

5 February 2014

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff establish positive relationships with parents and keep them fully involved in their children's learning. For example, they regularly share activity ideas with them.
- Staff build highly inspirational and nurturing relationships with all children. This helps children to be exceptionally happy and confident as they settle and play.
- Children gain good skills to support their future learning. For example, older children recognise letters of the alphabet and simple words with confidence.
- The managers and staff evaluate their practice well. For example, they regularly observe each other teach and provide helpful advice to support improvement plans.
- Children of all ages have good opportunities to develop their creative skills. Older children learn more complex ideas, such as still-life drawings. Babies and younger children explore the marks they make with paint and items such as bubble wrap.
- Staff support all children effectively, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, to make good progress. For example, they share strategies with outside specialists.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most out of opportunities to further develop all children's interest and skills in technology.
- Staff miss opportunities to consistently use more interesting ways to fully engage younger children to develop their early communication skills even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend all children's opportunities to further develop their interest and skills in technology
- build further on the range of interesting ways to fully engage younger children to develop their early listening and speaking skills even more consistently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at written documentation, including evidence of the suitability of all those working at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The managers closely monitor the consistency of the quality of care and teaching that staff provide children. For instance, they regularly hold one-to-one performance meetings to discuss their strengths and highlight any training needs. All staff are keen to continue to develop their confidence and skills further. They attend regular courses, such as learning the different ways that children can enjoy mathematics. Staff regularly implement new activity ideas. This helps them to ensure that they keep children motivated to learn. Staff maintain positive partnerships with other early years professionals. This helps to provide children with a good consistent approach to their shared learning. For example, staff share children's next steps with other settings that they also attend. Safeguarding is effective. All staff, including the managers, have a good knowledge of the safeguarding procedures and whom to contact to follow up any concerns. Staff help children to understand how to remain safe in emergency situations. For instance, they complete regular evacuation practices.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The managers and staff closely monitor children's individual progress. This enables them to promptly highlight any gaps in their development and provide good support for children to quickly close them. Staff skilfully help children prepare for their move to school. For example, children learn what may be expected of them and enjoy independently dressing up in the uniform. Staff build on children's interests well. For example, children who enjoy dragon books make dragon costumes and compete in dragon races. Babies have good opportunities to develop their senses and explore interesting textures, such as ice.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave impeccably and are exceptionally polite. For example, even the younger children and babies sign please and thank you with great confidence. Children have outstanding opportunities to challenge their physical skills. They all engage very excitedly in weekly yoga classes to explore the ways they can move and balance. Children gain an extremely good understanding of healthy eating. For example, older children discuss the benefits of food groups, such as carbohydrates. They all have extensive opportunities to develop excellent levels of respect and understanding of other people's similarities and differences in the wider world. For example, they celebrate interesting festivals, such as Feria de Abril that is traditional to Spain.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all ages are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Children develop good early writing skills. For example, older children independently write their names with confidence. Children gain good mathematical abilities, such as they confidently count up to 20 as they play. Children learn more complex ideas. They understand how things grow and are keen to grow interesting items, such as parsley and lettuce.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348921
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1068828
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	93
Number of children on roll	193
Name of registered person	Squiggles Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP526825
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2014
Telephone number	01732 461146

Squiggles Childcare registered in 2007. It is located in Sevenoaks, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 40 members of staff, of whom 11 hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. One member of staff holds a relevant early years qualification at level 4, and seven members of staff hold an early years degree.

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