

Safe Hands Day Nursery

Unit 13a Hopper Way, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4GT



Inspection date	1 February 2018
Previous inspection date	6 April 2017

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Since the last inspection, the new manager has worked hard to improve the nursery for the benefit of the children attending. Many new strategies and further ideas for development have been identified and are still being embedded in practice to ensure the nursery continues to improve.
- The indoor and outdoor environments are well organised and provide children with a range of stimulating activities to promote their enthusiasm for learning. The outdoor area in particular has undergone many improvements to extend the experiences staff offer to children.
- Children form close relationships with staff and each other. They welcome their friends on arrival and eagerly invite them to join in with their favourite activities.
- Children's emotional development is given a strong focus within the nursery. Staff work closely with parents to follow familiar routines, such as when settling babies and younger children to sleep.
- Parents praise the vast improvement they have seen in the nursery over the last year.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not recognise or immediately respond to opportunities to fully engage and challenge older children during their play.
- Planning is not always used effectively to help all staff precisely focus their teaching on what children are expected to achieve from the activities and resources provided.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide staff with more precise guidance and support to help them make the most of opportunities to provide older children with higher levels of challenge
- strengthen the planning of activities to focus more precisely on what children need to learn next to promote their more rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector met with the manager and viewed relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views from their written comments.

Inspector

Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has established a close-knit staff team that has high expectations of what children can do. She receives good levels of support from senior management to assist her in her role. Regular supervisory meetings have been established and provide good opportunities for staff to discuss their role and any concerns they may have. Relevant professional development opportunities are identified to help staff improve their knowledge and skills. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are confident about the action to take if they are concerned that a child is at risk of harm. They implement sound policies and procedures to promote children's good health, safety and welfare. Parents' views are actively sought and acted upon to further improve the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and deputy closely monitor the accuracy of assessments and the progress children make to identify any gaps in learning. Newly established ways of gathering information from parents about what children know and can do are used to inform initial assessments. Staff know the children in their care well. They listen and respond to children's requests and interests. Staff use older children's current fascination in playing board games as a good opportunity to help them learn about rules and being fair to others. Staff respond with interest to children's questions. They encourage younger children's interest in mathematics. For example, while a child played with sand, staff asked how many scoops it would take to fill the bucket. Children have many opportunities to make marks and develop their early writing skills. For example, younger children enjoy painting on large sheets of paper fixed to the wall, while older ones look at the properties of three dimensional shapes as they draw round them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are free to mix with those of different age groups. This helps older children develop tolerance towards the younger ones and allows siblings to play together. Staff use calm and consistent strategies to help children understand the rules for expected behaviour. They help children learn about the possible consequences of their actions on themselves and others. Children have many opportunities to enjoy physical exercise in the fresh air. They excitedly play chase games and enjoy dancing with coloured ribbons. Parents feel very involved in their child's learning. They praise the good levels of communication and the opportunity to borrow home-learning resources. Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks. Parents praise the way the cook adapts meals to meet children's individual dietary needs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and develop the key skills to support their future learning, and eventual move on to school. They demonstrate good levels of personal independence. From a young age, children learn to serve their own food and pour drinks from small china jugs. They confidently get their own coats and attempt to put them on before going outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY473462
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	1096791
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900801
Date of previous inspection	6 April 2017
Telephone number	01379650420

Safe Hands Day Nursery registered in 2013 and is part of the Alpha Nurseries group. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff, seven of whom hold a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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