

Hilltop Day Nursery

Hilltop Day Nursery, Chapel Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4AB



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

25 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff and managers give high priority to the safeguarding of children, the safety of activities and the premises. Staff fully implement the robust policies and procedures so that children stay safe. All staff are rigorously vetted to check that they are suitable to work with children.
- Staff have excellent knowledge and understanding about how children play, learn and develop. They guide children's learning exceptionally well with outstanding teaching strategies, precise assessments and planning for individual children. This results in children making outstanding progress in their learning and development, in readiness for school.
- Children have a thirst for learning which is actively promoted outdoors where staff provide a range of innovative activities and resources. Children relish their time in this delightful space. They enthusiastically explore, make their own discoveries, solve problems and learn skills for life.
- The high level of qualified staff together and exceptional teaching practice have a positive impact on the learning experiences this nursery provides for children. Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language is exceptional.
- Children flourish at this very welcoming and supportive nursery where they develop strong bonds with the staff.
- Management has a vision for the future development of the nursery and motivates staff exceptionally well. Consequently, the staff team is very strong and shows an uncompromising commitment and dedication to ensuring the highest standards of care and learning in all areas.
- Parents are fully engaged in their children's learning. The excellent two-way communication helps promote continuity in care and learning. Parents and staff share children's targets, and staff offer suggestions for parents to support learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the excellent strategies to exchange information with other providers, where care is shared.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, a range of other documentation including policies, procedures, risk assessments and self-evaluation.
- The inspector discussed the children's progress with their key persons.
- The inspector viewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff working with the children.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outside and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The quality of teaching is inspirational. Staff provide endless opportunities to extend children's learning in all areas of learning. Highly comprehensive assessments help staff to identify any gaps in children's learning. Staff have high expectations of themselves and the children. They work tirelessly to extend children's development towards the next steps in their learning. Children are fully supported to be active learners. Children search for bugs in the garden. Staff introduce mathematics as they use positional language, such as, 'under', 'on top' and 'beside'. They encourage children to count the legs of the insects and compare sizes before exploring books placed nearby. This means staff effectively incorporate mathematics, communication, literacy and knowledge of the world into the children's play. Children are supported to learn about simple, everyday information and communication technology. They recognise that when they use a camera, they can print off the picture for all to see. The experienced staff effectively develop babies' and young children's communication skills. They constantly comment on what they are doing and repeat their vocalisations. This reinforces that their sounds are important and convey meaning. Babies music sessions are a joy to see. Babies bounce, sway and babble to the nursery rhymes.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Staff teach the children healthy and safe practices. They remind children to keep safe, for example, not to bump into each other on their bicycles and to use their feet to slow down. Children regularly practise fire evacuation drills. The talented chef provides excellent, nutritious home-cooked meals and leads a weekly cookery lesson for the children. Children are independent as staff teach them to learn to do things for themselves, such as serving their own food at lunchtime. The behaviour of the children is exceptional. For example, children offer to go and get other children's shoes for them. Consequently, children are developing excellent attitudes and skills in readiness for school. Staff are extremely respectful to the children who they regularly praise. This successfully builds on their self-esteem. This super environment supports babies too. This is because staff have carefully placed favourite toys and resources around the room. This enables them to explore and be active and promotes their physical development as they move around.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

Management aspires to improve the service provided through the use of detailed improvement plans. The management team closely monitor and analyse staff's assessments of children. They use this information to secure timely interventions and support when necessary. Management monitors staff performance through peer review and supervision. Self-evaluation is effective, and captures the views of staff, parents and children. The manager has introduced inspirational strategies to exchange information about children's learning with other providers, where care is shared. However, this is still work in progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361618
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	863700
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	113
Name of provider	Hilltop Day Nurseries (Cheshire) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	25 July 2011
Telephone number	0126 027 6085

Hilltop Day Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 to level 6, including one with Early Years Professional Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It provides support for children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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