

Mersham Little Stars

Mountbatten Hall, Church Road, Mersham, Kent TN25 6NT



Inspection date	28 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Staff get to know children and their individual personalities well. They visit them at home to get to know them in their familiar surroundings. This helps children settle quickly and happily into their play. Children have a good sense of belonging.
- Staff establish positive partnerships with parents and help keep them fully informed in their children's learning, such as they regularly share children's achievements.
- The manager and staff effectively monitor the progress of individual and differing groups of children. This enables them to identify any gaps in children's development and provide them with good support to help them catch up in their learning promptly.
- Children have good opportunities to develop their imaginations. For example, they enjoy a wide range of role-play activities, as they enjoy pretending to be cats and dogs.
- There are good opportunities for all children to develop their mathematical skills to support their future learning. For instance, children confidently count as they play.
- Staff use the local community to help extend children's learning experiences. For example, they go on regular nature walks in the surrounding village.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently encourage children to be independent and complete tasks themselves to help develop their skills to support their future learning even further.
- Staff do not organise changes in routines as effectively as they could to ensure that they keep all children engaged in their learning experiences throughout these times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's opportunities to consistently complete tasks with more independence to gain more skills to support their future learning further
- review and improve the organisation of changes in routine to help children understand what is happening next and what is expected of them during this learning experience.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff interacting with children and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- 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 the manager, children, parents and staff, and considered their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector
Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and staff effectively evaluate their practice. For example, they observe each other teach children and provide helpful advice to support their future performance. They evaluate the day's events and consider how well they maintained the interest of children. This helps staff to motivate children to learn. The manager closely monitors the consistency of care and teaching that staff provide children. For instance, she regularly holds individual meetings with staff and they highlight any training needs. Staff attend a good range of beneficial training. For example, they have learnt about the different ways to support children to develop their interest and skills in mathematics. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding procedures to follow to help protect children's safety and welfare. Staff help children learn how to remain safe. For example, they recap the rules daily and children confidently remind each other of them, such as walking indoors to avoid tripping.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff establish positive partnerships with other settings that children also attend. For example, they invite them into the pre-school to observe children together and share plans. This helps provide children with a good consistent approach to their shared care and learning. Staff effectively support children to prepare for their eventual move to school. For example, younger children enjoy looking at books and older children recognise simple words. Staff build on children's interests well. For instance, children who enjoy a story about a pirate, go on to make treasure maps and use metal detectors to hunt for buried treasure. Staff support children to develop good speaking and listening skills. For example, they reinforce the correct pronunciation of words respectfully.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are polite and behave well. Children develop a good understanding of healthy eating. For instance, they harvest their own vegetables, such as carrots, with staff. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, they build and negotiate obstacles with confidence, as they balance and climb on tyres and balancing beams. Children have good opportunities to learn about other people's similarities and differences. For instance, they learn about different religious beliefs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all ages make good progress and gain good skills to support their future learning. For example, they develop good social skills and work well as a team. Children develop good hand-to-eye coordination. They enjoy threading activities and interesting games, such as basketball. Children participate in activities that require good concentration, for example, using hammers to knock golf tees into cardboard.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538910
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10077022
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Packham, Abigail
Registered person unique reference number	RP902997
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07469 202723

Mersham Little Stars registered in 2016. It is located in Mersham, Kent. The setting is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.45am to 2.45pm, term time only. It receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs seven members of staff. Of these, one member of staff holds a relevant early years qualifications at level 2 and six members of staff have a level 3 qualification.

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