

Hillside Day Nursery

Hillside Day Nursery, Potterswood, Britannia Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8DB



Inspection date

11 April 2016

Previous inspection date

31 October 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	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

- Staff prepare children well for school. Pre-school children are confident learners and communicators. They listen attentively, behave well and develop valuable skills for their future learning.
- There is a strong focus on self-evaluation, which involves management, staff, parents and children in driving continuous improvement. For example, precise action plans have supported great improvements to the outdoor environment. Children have a wealth of learning opportunities and make independent choices about where they play.
- Staff provide a warm and inviting nursery where children are nurtured in caring relationships and form strong attachments. Children have a strong sense of belonging, where interested staff listen to their views, respond positively and celebrate their achievements.
- The systems for observation, assessment and planning are rigorous. Staff use information effectively to identify children's next steps and reduce any gaps in learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff caring for two-year-old children do not always make the most of all opportunities to develop children's interest and active involvement in stories and books.
- Although babies have good opportunities to explore using their senses, staff do not always extend this so they can make and explore marks in more detail.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop toddlers' interest in books and stories further to support their early literacy skills
- provide more opportunities for babies to explore the marks they make during their sensory play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions as children played inside and outside.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the managers.
- The inspector held conversations with the leadership and management team, staff and children at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector considered the written views of parents.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's assessment records, the nursery's self-evaluation and staff's suitability records.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand and implement policies and procedures well to maintain children's welfare. The management team and staff have a good understanding of their responsibility to report any concerns about a child. Managers use thorough arrangements to ensure robust recruitment, vetting and induction of new staff. They are good role models and support staff to extend their professional skills effectively. They monitor children's progress well and take prompt action to help reduce any gaps in their learning. There are strong partnerships with parents and other professionals to provide a consistent approach to children's care, learning and development. Parents are actively involved in their children's learning, and staff provide advice to support learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and successfully plan stimulating activities and an engaging environment to promote their learning. Pre-school children have many opportunities to explore growth and change. For example, they keenly use magnifying glasses on their bug hunt and accurately identify similarities and differences between the creatures they find. Children respond well to questions, think critically and communicate their ideas extremely well; for example, why some sunflowers have not grown. Staff model language well throughout the nursery, helping children develop good communication and language skills. For example, staff use repetitive language and narrative well to extend vocabulary.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and confident at the nursery. Staff use their training and detailed initial information from parents to support children's emotional well-being. For example, they distract unsettled children with favourite toys or use laminated family photographs to reassure young children. Children learn safe and hygienic practices. For example, they use knives safely to cut the lard for their bird feeders and understand that the green traffic light means that they can choose to play outside. Staff embed behavioural expectations from an early age. They provide clear explanations and help young children to understand the importance of 'gentle hands' and being kind to their friends. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. For example, the cook provides nutritious meals and the children have good opportunities to enjoy fresh air and physical activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and learn a wide range of skills. For example, pre-school children listen to instructions and quickly find their coats and boots, putting them on independently. Children participate enthusiastically in a range of well-chosen, challenging experiences. They learn to be part of a group and are helpful towards each other, for example, eagerly helping to serve their friends' lunch.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY461545
Local authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1028290
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	33
Number of children on roll	70
Name of provider	Hillside Day Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	31 October 2013
Telephone number	0117 9604330

Hillside Day Nursery Ltd was first established in 2003 and re-registered under the current ownership in 2013. The nursery operates from single storey premises within the grounds of John Cabot Academy in Kingswood, South Gloucestershire. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year, except for bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The owners hold early years qualifications at level 4. They are supported by nine members of staff, of whom one holds an early years qualification at level 5, four hold early years qualifications at level 3 and three hold early years qualifications at level 2. An apprentice is working towards a level 2 qualification. The owners also employ a cook.

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