

Inspection of Bar Hill Day Nursery

Sparc Building, Cambridge CB23 8DY

Inspection date: 10 January 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children receive good-quality education at this warm and homely nursery. They arrive happy and eager to learn. Children and their families are enthusiastically greeted on arrival by friendly staff, who are skilled at helping children who are new to the nursery to quickly settle and to feel comfortable in their surroundings. Children of all ages have developed close relationships with the adults who care for them and feel comfortable to approach staff and communicate their wants and needs. Babies' welcome cuddles and close interaction. They enjoy snuggling on staff's knees to look at books.

Children take great delight in participating in the sensory and creative opportunities that are presented to them. Toddlers thoroughly enjoy playing with foam and making handprints with paint. Babies excitedly squish sand, cooked spaghetti and noodles between their fingers. In the pre-school, children re-enact their favourite stories in the garden. They are fascinated by a bee they find in the sandpit. Staff take the opportunity to teach children about bees and their features through a number of interesting activities and rich conversations. Children show great pride in their drawings of bees that they create with their friends.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff enthuse and motivate children to learn. They know the children they care for well. Staff plan exciting activities to help develop children's learning based on children's interests and building on what they know and can do. They include parents in this process and encourage them to support their children's learning, for example, by providing items for show and tell.
- The nursery is well led by an experienced and motivated manager who is highly respected by her staff. Staff morale is high. They feel that there is a real positive atmosphere in the nursery and a strong team ethos. The manager meets regularly with staff to help support their professional development. Staff's well-being is given high priority which helps them feel supported and valued.
- Children play in a safe and secure environment. They are encouraged to help staff to identify any risks in the garden before they play. This helps children to become aware of how to keep themselves safe. During an activity with nails and a hammer, staff constantly remind children of the safety rules and ensure they are well supervised.
- Parents are given a good account of their children's day at collection time. Regular information is shared about children's progress through an online application. Parents feel that there is a warm family feel in the nursery and that staff work very closely with them to meet their children's ongoing needs.
- Staff understand the importance of developing children's communication and language. Singing songs and reading stories consistently happens throughout

the day, with children of all ages showing a good interest in books. Staff hold meaningful conversations with older children and regularly introduce new words into their vocabulary, such as oval and antennae, when talking about the shape and features of a bee.

- Staff work closely with families and other professionals to provide targeted support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Additional funding, such as early years pupil premium, is used well to support children's needs.
- Children understand the rules of the nursery and their behaviour is good. They use sand timers to help regulate taking turns independently. Older children are able to take care of their own self-care skills in preparation for school and life. They confidently use the toilet, dress themselves and serve their own food at mealtimes.
- Children attend the nursery who speak English as an additional language. Staff help them to learn and to develop their communication skills in English by providing a language-rich environment. However, not all staff understand and promote the benefits for children to be able to use and to see their home language at nursery as well as at home.
- Snack and mealtimes in the babies' and pre-school rooms are not always organised effectively to meet children's needs. Currently, these routine activities do not always promote social skills, good hygiene practice and mealtime expectations for children prior to starting school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children in the nursery. They understand how to report concerns about children's welfare. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse, including children who are at risk of female genital mutilation or grooming. They keep their knowledge refreshed through regular training opportunities. The manager has robust procedures in place to check the suitability of staff who work with the children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build staff's understanding of how to support children who speak English as an additional language
- reorganise snack and mealtimes to ensure the needs of all children are met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538983
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10218463
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Buttercups Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP538982
Telephone number	01954488081
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2017

Information about this early years setting

Bar Hill Day Nursery registered in 2016. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Carly Mooney

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint observation was completed and evaluated with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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