

The Ark Association Ltd

(1)

Princess Avenue, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6PQ



Inspection date	14 December 2017
Previous inspection date	26 February 2014

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

- Managers organise staffing effectively across the setting according to experience and skills. Staff caring for babies have many years of experience in this area. Babies are happy and well settled.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is a priority for staff. Children are enthusiastic and want to join in with activities and learn.
- Staff teach children key skills effectively. Children are encouraged to be independent and are prepared for the next stage in their learning, including moving on to school.
- Staff ensure that the environment is safe. Children can move around freely. They learn about safety and how to keep themselves safe.
- Staff form good relationships with parents. Staff gather useful information about where children are in their development when they start at the setting. Parents speak well of the setting and appreciate the care and kindness staff show their children.
- Children enjoy healthy food at lunch and snacktime. They learn about making healthy choices and eagerly join in with cooking activities.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers do not make the best use of supervision to help staff reflect on and improve their teaching skills and implement what they have learnt from training.
- Staff do not have high enough expectations of children's learning. The most-able children do not always make as much progress as they are capable of.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make best use of supervision to focus on helping staff to continually improve their teaching skills and build on their learning from training
- help staff to have high expectations of children's learning, particularly those who are more able.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the setting coordinator.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nominated person. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Judith Chinnery

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers are committed to building a good team and ensuring staff take up training. Most staff have worked at the setting for a number of years and have completed childcare qualifications during this time. Safeguarding is effective. Staff know how to protect children and who to contact should they be concerned. There are appropriate risk assessments in place. Children use equipment inside and outdoors that is safe and suitable for their age and stage of development. Managers have built effective partnerships with parents and local schools. They use a common assessment tool to ensure that information is shared more easily. Managers evaluate the provision regularly and encourage staff, children and parents to contribute ideas for improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of a range of teaching skills to help children learn. They provide activities that engage children and hold their interest. Young children enjoy exploring the texture of real vegetables in their home corner. Older children readily attempt to form recognisable letters and give meaning to the marks they make. They have lots of fun writing their own Christmas cards and posting them in the box. Staff make effective use of questions and conversations. They also talk about and use numbers with the children, for example, during circle time to work out the number of children in different groups. Staff regularly observe what children can do and assess where they are in their development. They use this information well to provide resources and activities that help children to move on in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are very caring and build close relationships with each child. Children are confident and enjoy being in the setting. Children behave well. Older children know how to take turns, share and resolve differences themselves. Staff model good behaviour and help children resolve any differences. Children learn about different communities and about respecting themselves and each other. Children are developing good physical skills. They love to dance to music and stretch to catch bubbles. Children enjoy exploring outside, riding bicycles and seeing what happens when they add snow and ice to puddles.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress across all areas of learning. Very young children pull themselves up to standing as they learn to walk. Older children are curious about the different ingredients used in cooking gingerbread people. For example, they are keen to smell the ginger and note that the syrup made their fingers 'sticky' and 'syrupy'. Other children persevere for some time at activities, such as joining up carriages to the train. Older children recognise when they have more or less items in a group and confidently recognise numerals beyond 10.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY439880
Local authority	Rutland
Inspection number	1102378
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	The Ark Association
Registered person unique reference number	RP531262
Date of previous inspection	26 February 2014
Telephone number	01572770121

The Ark Association Ltd (1) registered in 2011. The setting employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with a relevant degree. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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