

Pennies at Newnham Court

Newnham Court Shopping Village, Bearsted Road, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent,
ME14 5LH

Inspection date	20 September 2016
Previous inspection date	25 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

- Staff know children well and support their learning effectively. For instance, staff identify children's individual next steps in learning to help them make progress.
- All children make good progress, including those with special educational needs or disability. Staff have focused plans in place to support them to achieve well in their learning and development.
- Staff support children to have good relationships with each other. They help them to learn to share resources well. For example, older children use a sand timer to take turns on the computer and talk to each other about following the rules.
- The managers and staff establish good, effective relationships with professionals to support individual children. For example, they work well with specialist professionals to learn new skills to better support children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of all learning opportunities, particularly those which support children who prefer to learn outdoors.
- Not all parents receive detailed and individual feedback about their children's care and learning from the day.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further children's learning opportunities, particularly those which support children who prefer to learn outdoors
- continue to develop partnerships with parents to encourage regular individual feedback on children's learning and help them support their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspectors held discussions with the manger, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The lead inspector jointly observed activities with the manager.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manger and deputy manager.
- The inspectors viewed documentation, such as policies and procedures, and complaints procedures, and discussed staff inductions.

Inspector

Sarah Taylor-Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The managers reflect on the overall quality of the nursery well and have high expectations. For example, they encourage staff in each area of the nursery to develop their ideas and have plans in place to continue to develop good outcomes for children. Parents are also given a range of ways to share their views about the nursery. Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection issues and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's development and welfare. The manager arranges staff ratios to support children's learning effectively. Staff receive good support to develop their practice. For instance, they have regular one-to-one meetings and have opportunities to attend training.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children are given good opportunities to explore early writing skills. For example, younger children enjoy finger painting. Older children begin to develop an understanding that their marks carry meaning and are beginning to form letters. Children receive good opportunities to learn about themselves and develop their communication and language. For instance, staff support toddlers to look in mirrors and have good discussions with them about what they can see. Children learn about the benefits of healthy eating. For example, staff talk to them about how strong they will be when they eat their vegetables.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff supervise children well and support their safety effectively. For example, staff ensure that they are near climbing equipment to maintain children's safety. Staff carry out daily checks of the nursery and maintain good safety standards. Children behave well. For instance, staff manage their behaviour effectively and help children to learn to be kind to each other. Children receive healthy and balanced meals to support their development and individual needs. For instance, children's individual allergies are addressed. Staff support children to have good opportunities to be independent. For example, they encourage children to try and put dressing-up outfits on themselves and show them where to put their finished paintings. Children are settled and happy.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They learn and develop a good range of skills in readiness for starting school. They are continually engaged in their learning and are motivated to explore. Children have good manners, are confident to talk to staff and communicate their needs. For example, children happily share their achievements and ask questions. Children develop an interest in books and rhymes. For example, they suggest their favourite songs and enjoy being involved and listening to stories.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY284697
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1073248
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 - 8
Total number of places	131
Number of children on roll	326
Name of registered person	Pennies Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900704
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2014
Telephone number	01622 737733

Pennies at Newnham Court registered in 2005 and is one of three nurseries owned by the same company. It is in Maidstone, Kent. It runs a day nursery, a before-school and after-school club, and a holiday play-scheme. It is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm all year round, except bank holidays. There are 50 members of staff, 38 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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