

Bluebell Wood Children's Nursery

Goward Hall, Cade Street, HEATHFIELD, East Sussex, TN21 9BU



Inspection date

8 May 2015

Previous inspection date

11 January 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The staff have a very good awareness of how children learn in different ways and provide clear information about this to parents. This helps parents to support children's development and learning at home.
- Staff have extremely close relationships with children and provide excellent support as children gain positive control over their behaviours. As a result, children's emotional well-being is very strong.
- Children's health benefits greatly from the nutritious meals. They gain excellent independence, for example, as they pour drinks and serve themselves.
- The management and staff routinely reflect on their practice and plan improvements to extend children's learning experiences effectively. They have made positive progress since the last inspection.
- The staff team has a secure understanding of safeguarding. They are very clear about the processes to follow if they have child protection concerns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager monitors and develops staff practices. However, not all staff are as skilled as others at encouraging children's creative thinking by asking skilful questions to expand conversations.
- The nappy changing area on the ground floor is not as welcoming as the rest of the environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring and development of staff practices, such as enhancing some staff's use of skilful questioning to extend children's language
- improve the babies' nappy changing area to provide a much more welcoming environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the provider and manager of the nursery, and completed joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector looked at some children's records, including their learning assessments, and spoke to staff.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of parents' views.
- The inspector checked evidence of safeguarding practices, staff recruitment, ongoing professional development and self-evaluation processes.
- The inspector observed activities in the play rooms and outside play areas.

Inspector

Sue Taylor

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff plan learning activities for children on a weekly basis, taking account of individual's needs and interests. This helps children to progress well, as staff provide interesting activities to develop their next learning steps. As a result, staff prepare children well for school, as they are keen to learn. Children have fun and engage well with staff. They practise their early writing skills as, for example, toddlers make marks in the sand. Children enjoy making the dough for a creative activity. Books are very popular and children listen to stories well. Babies and children particularly like to explore and investigate the wide range of interesting items in their rooms. These encourage them to use all their senses. Staff work extremely closely with parents, so they consistently meet home routines for babies and young children. When children also attend other early years settings, staff share relevant information. This ensures children continue to make consistent progress in their learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

The excellent learning environments, both indoors and outdoors, are stimulating and inviting. This significantly helps to motivate children's engagement in their play and learning. The excellent resources are at low-level and all children confidently make choices about their play. All children use the outdoor play areas throughout the day, so they routinely enjoy physical play and learning in the fresh air. Staff make the secure walkway to the outside areas particularly interesting, with ideas and resources for exploring nature. Children on the first floor are able to access fresh fruit when they want, to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The recently introduced assessment system means that parents are kept well informed about their child's achievements and progress. As a development to the previous system, it is online. Parents comment that they like this process, as they can access detail about their child when it is convenient for them. Management has a good overview of how individuals or different groups of children make progress. This enables staff to address any learning gaps. The current system has great potential to show how well children make progress over their time in the nursery, as individuals or in groups. Staff benefit from regular supervision meetings that effectively support their development. The management team encourages staff to attend various training courses or to improve their qualification level. As a result, staff develop a more confident knowledge of child development and their practice improves. This has a positive effect on the children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434889
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	824027
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	58
Name of provider	Chantry Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2012
Telephone number	01435 868949

Bluebell Wood Children's Nursery registered in 2011. It is one of three nurseries owned and operated by the same private provider. The nursery is in Heathfield, East Sussex. It is open each weekday, from 7am to 7pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The first floor is used for care of children aged over two years and is reached by stairs. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language. There are 10 members of staff, eight of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least National Vocational Qualification at level 3. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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