

The Acorns Nursery School



11 Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5LN

Inspection date 16 July 2015
 Previous inspection date 10 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff make excellent use of constant opportunities to develop children's exceptional communication skills. Staff value each child as they listen and respond positively to their views. As a result, children make excellent progress in their language development, including those who speak English as an additional language.
- Children develop remarkable problem-solving skills. Staff consistently ask high-quality questions which encourage children to think and respond with their own ideas. Staff encourage them to try their ideas to extend their learning even further.
- Staff build exceptional relationships with parents. They use highly successful strategies that encourage all parents to engage in their child's next steps in learning.
- Children show increasingly high levels of self-control as they manage their own feelings, including those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff are excellent role models as they teach children to help each other and form close relationships. As a result, children behave exceptionally well.
- Staff form excellent links with other professionals, such as Reception teachers. They work exceptionally well as a team to help to prepare children emotionally for their move to school.
- The manager constantly encourages the already highly qualified staff to continue to enhance their skills and knowledge even further through training. Staff share and implement their new learning successfully into the provision. This all helps to improve the outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's already strong sense of belonging by extending resources further to reflect their different cultures.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the children, staff and the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding and staff suitability, as well as policies, procedures and progress records.

Inspector

Helen Harnew

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is inspirational. Staff have expert knowledge of how children learn. They use highly effective plans towards children's next steps in learning. As a result, children make excellent progress in all areas from their starting points. Staff promote children's superb physical skills and exercise. For example, while playing outside, children learn to bounce, catch and throw balls to each other. Staff offer them further challenges, such as encouraging them to kick balls into goals. Staff provide extensive resources and activities to help children to develop excellent literacy skills. Children use water and brushes to practise writing skills, and puppets to re-enact their favourite tales. There are fewer resources that reflect children's different cultures to enhance their already excellent sense of belonging. Staff provide highly stimulating experiences for children. For example, when children watch caterpillars turn into butterflies, staff plan further activities to extend their understanding. Children decorate their own butterflies and hide them inside paper bags, which act as cocoons.

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

Staff make excellent use of all opportunities to help to develop children's personal, social and emotional skills. Children make close friendships and constantly welcome others into their play. These developing skills help them to prepare exceptionally well before their move to school. Staff form close relationships with children. They have a superb understanding of their needs and interests. Children arrive excited and settle into activities promptly. Staff promote children's strong understanding of healthy lifestyles. They provide extensive access to the garden, which helps children to get lots of fresh air and exercise. They teach children about healthy food options and where food comes from. Staff arrange an extensive range of opportunities for children to learn how to keep themselves safe. They invite professionals, such as fire and police officers, to the setting to learn about different aspects of safety.

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

The leadership and management are outstanding. The manager has an excellent understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Her high expectations, robust monitoring of children's progress and consistent drive for improvement help the pre-school to maintain the highest levels of achievement. She welcomes the views of staff, parents and other professionals to help to identify their strengths and areas to improve. The manager and staff have excellent knowledge of the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Other professionals, such as childminders, speak highly of the staff. They state that staff identify children's needs promptly and work in excellent partnership with them to support and rapidly close children's gaps in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511205
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	826252
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Janet Wilson
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2011
Telephone number	01189 421856

The Acorns Nursery School registered in 1984 and operates from domestic premises in Tilehurst, Berkshire. It opens weekdays between 9.30am and 4pm on Monday to Thursday, and 9.30am to 1.30pm on Friday, during term time only. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old. All nine members of staff have relevant qualifications at level 3 or above. Of these, five have a degree in early years or Qualified Teacher Status.

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