

Christmas Cottage Nursery



Christmas Cottage, Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
HP14 4JJ

Inspection date	12 August 2015
Previous inspection date	28 November 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The highly qualified manager is inspirational. She is passionate and driven in the pursuit of excellence throughout the nursery.
- Children are very independent, confident and highly motivated to learn. They develop essential practical skills and are exceptionally well-prepared for the next stage in their learning, including school.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff are highly qualified, experienced and well-motivated. They plan exciting, high-quality learning experiences. Consequently, children are excited, engaged and have a real thirst for learning.
- Children benefit from a highly stimulating, exceptionally well-resourced setting, both inside and outside that ignites their curiosity and enables them to freely explore.
- All leaders, managers and staff have an excellent understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. This means children's well-being is very well protected.
- All children settle very quickly and have exceptionally strong bonds with staff who have a very clear understanding of their differing needs. This helps to ensure all children are emotionally very secure.
- Staff work particularly well together as a team. As a result, the organisation of the nursery is excellent. Children thrive within a relaxed, welcoming environment where every child is valued and respected.
- Children are developing their communication and language skills exceptionally well. Staff model language very clearly and use every opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and share their ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use every opportunity to enable parents to share and discuss with staff, their own observations of children's progress and achievements.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector had a meeting with the nursery manager to discuss how she monitors the quality of teaching and identifies areas to improve.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as planning and assessment records.
- The inspector spoke to parents and viewed parent questionnaires to assess parents' views of the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Nikki Whinton

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their strong understandings of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children learn to plan consistently exciting, innovative, challenging experiences that enable all children to make excellent progress in their learning. Children initiate many activities themselves, which are skilfully supported by staff to ensure that all opportunities for extending children's learning are maximised. For example, children confidently articulate their construction ideas and carefully use tape measures to check lengths of wooden blocks whilst building a tank. They tend herbs and vegetables in a growing area they have initiated and designed themselves. Children thoroughly enjoy solving problems, such as when accurately calculating the number of drinking cups they need at lunch time. Planning and assessment arrangements are precise, focusing on every child's differing developmental needs. Parents are very involved in their child's learning. They regularly record their own observations of children's achievements in daily journals, which staff embrace to inform their assessments and ensure each child makes rapid progress. Staff constantly keep parents up-to-date with children's development and arrange planned opportunities to discuss children's assessments.

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

Children understand the setting's routines. For example, they confidently and independently blow their noses, before hygienically disposing of the tissue. They know they must wear sun hats when playing in the garden. Children behave extremely well and show high levels of self-control, such as when waiting patiently to select a piece of fruit. Children lead healthy lifestyles at the setting. They help themselves to water from a drinks dispenser to keep themselves fully hydrated and enjoy an extensive range of freshly prepared nutritious meals and snacks. Staff use innovative ways to teach children how to keep themselves healthy. For example, after lunch, staff use a giant toothbrush and 'Mickey Mouth' to demonstrate to children how to brush their teeth correctly. Children explain confidently to their friends the consequences of not following such routines, 'your teeth will all fall out'.

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

Leaders and managers are very skilled and highly qualified. They closely monitor and develop staff's performance through effective peer reviews, supervision and regular appraisals. This results in a high quality, consistent practice across the staffing team. Leaders and managers strive for perfection. They complete regular, comprehensive audits of the provision. Leaders and managers liaise with and visit other local early years settings to enhance their appreciation of highest quality practice. They seek the views of parents, children, staff and early years advisors to help them effectively evaluate the quality of the nursery and seek further improvements. The manager is incisive and understands the benefits of introducing further opportunities for parents to discuss and share children's progress with staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	140902
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1023341
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Jenny Dexter
Date of previous inspection	28 November 2012
Telephone number	01494 481714

Christmas Cottage Nursery registered in 1995. It operates from rooms on the ground and second floor of the nursery owner's home in Bledlow Ridge, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. There is an enclosed outside area for children's play. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The setting is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks a year. There are currently 30 children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. There are four staff who work with the children, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. The manager and deputy are qualified to degree level.

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