

Maison Dieu Nursery

94 Maison Dieu Road, Dover, Kent, CT16 1RU



Inspection date

9 December 2015

Previous inspection date

27 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team provides inspirational leadership to the highly motivated staff team. The key person approach is a particular strength of the nursery and children develop emotional security. Each key person gets to know the children and their families exceptionally well.
- Parents speak very highly of the information they are given about the nursery from the outset. They are very well informed of their children's progress and take delight in contributing to their children's progress in learning journals, especially at holiday times.
- Staff plan exciting and stimulating activities in the vibrant environment. Children very confidently make independent choices in their play. For example, they explore a wealth of exciting resources that significantly enhance their enjoyment and learning.
- There are highly effective systems to manage staff performance. Staff are continually supported to improve their knowledge and skills. Ongoing evaluation takes into consideration the views of staff, children and parents, and effectively supports the manager to target improvements to maintain high standards.
- All children make exceptional progress. Assessment and monitoring of children's progress is superb. Staff skilfully plan to extend and challenge children's future learning. Staff are highly skilled at promoting all children's language and communication.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the strong support to reflect children's cultures and teach them about lives and cultures other than their own.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spent time in both playrooms and the outdoor learning environments to observe children at play and learning.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke with the room supervisors, children's key persons, staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain their views and opinions of the nursery.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including policies, children's development records, staff records and those relating to the nursery's self-evaluation and future development plans.

Inspector

Bernadette Gibbs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The managers and their leadership team are inspirational in their quest to drive improvement throughout the nursery. Staff are guided and supported from the first day with a very thorough induction process. For example, they have regular performance meetings to identify training opportunities to further promote their professional development. There is a clear vision and drive for the continuous improvement of the nursery. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are knowledgeable and confident in their responsibilities to protect children from harm or neglect. For example, they are very alert to the symptoms and behaviours that may indicate concerns about children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Assessment of children's learning is exceptionally precise and highly effective. Staff target their high-quality teaching to meet and extend each individual child's learning experiences. Information from assessments is precisely monitored and used to identify any gaps in individual children's attainment or where groups of children might need additional support. The nursery ethos places a strong focus on supporting children's communication and use of language. Children gather together for a welcome time and say hello to each other in languages of the children attending. Children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs are supported particularly well. Following the previous inspection, the nursery staff now make exceptional use of recycling. For example, children sort the packaging from their lunch boxes into plastic and paper bins; plastic pots are washed and used in role play or to make models.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Key persons forge exceptionally strong, professional and sensitive relationships with families. Children are fully supported to feel emotionally secure and settled. The children display exemplary behaviour. They are polite, share with their friends and play together cooperatively. Parents speak very highly of the nursery, saying their children cannot wait for holidays to end so they can go back to nursery. They know their suggestions are acted upon and appreciated. For example, room leaders now ensure all parents know what the children have been doing by using notice boards to inform them of each day's activities and to make suggestions to continue learning at home.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their individual starting points. Children are extremely motivated, learn to be independent and display high levels of confidence. They are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their learning, including moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127363
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840649
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	2 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Frank Alan Smith
Date of previous inspection	27 September 2011
Telephone number	01304 214951

Maison Dieu Nursery registered in 1989. It operates from the centre of Dover. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm, all year round with a two week break during the summer and at Christmas, as well as a one week break over Easter. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 12 members of staff; two staff hold Early Years Professional Status and the remaining 10 hold qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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