

Bluebell Wood Children's Nursery

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



Inspection date	7 September 2017
Previous inspection date	8 May 2015

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

- Children are secure, happy and relaxed in the warm and welcoming atmosphere. They form strong attachments with the caring staff, particularly their key person, and are confident and independent learners. This supports their emotional well-being effectively.
- The manager is reflective and forward thinking. She understands the strengths of the staff team and consistently raises standards to improve children's outcomes.
- Staff make particularly good use of skilful questioning to develop older children's language skills, to extend their learning and to encourage their creative thinking.
- Children contribute to the planning of daily activities. They engage in a wide range of activities inside and in the garden, which cater for their individual needs and interests. For example, they scoop porridge into containers in the garden, which supports children's imaginative play as well as their understanding of capacity.
- Children make good progress. Staff monitor children's learning and development precisely and children gain the necessary skills to prepare them for the next steps in their learning, including starting school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to encourage the youngest children to express themselves freely and to challenge them to make good or better progress.
- Children respect and celebrate each other's differences. However, staff do not use resources fully to extend children's understanding of their backgrounds and diversity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enable staff who work with the youngest children to maximize all opportunities to challenge children to make the very best progress possible
- extend the range of learning experiences to promote children's understanding of the wider world further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children taking part in planned and freely chosen activities and observed staff practice.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including the self-evaluation and summaries of children's progress.

Inspector

Lucy Whitestone

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff update their safeguarding knowledge regularly. They are fully aware of their responsibilities and the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. Children understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know they should hold onto the rail when they walk down the stairs. The manager supports the professional development of the staff effectively. For example, staff observe each other teaching and share good practice in supervisory sessions and staff meetings. The manager and staff successfully identify training needs, such as supporting children's early writing. This has resulted in more purposeful and imaginative mark-making opportunities, indoors and in the garden.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of each child's next steps in their learning and take into account children's different learning styles. Children are active and inquisitive learners. For example, younger children give their dolls a bath and explore what happens when they clap their hands in the bubbly water. Staff build on older children's interests well to extend their learning. For example, children investigate the shapes of wooden blocks and match them to the correct outline on paper. They share their knowledge by helping each other identify shapes and recognise that two semi-circles make a circle. Older children benefit from good challenge outdoors. For instance, they successfully negotiate space while pedalling tricycles, experiment with different ways of coming down the slide and take turns throwing balls with accuracy into a bucket.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave very well. They listen carefully to the staff and to each other and even the youngest help to tidy up. Staff support children to manage their personal needs, such as putting on their own coat. Staff are positive role models who praise children regularly for their efforts and successfully promote children's consideration, care and respect for each other. For example, children carefully serve food to others at lunchtime, as well as helping themselves. Children enjoy healthy snacks and lunches, in addition to daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise, which helps promote their physical development and well-being. Parents particularly appreciate the effective key-person system, which helps staff to provide high standards of care for their children.

Outcomes for children are good

Younger children learn to share, for instance, as they take turns at choosing a puppet from the bag at song time. Children recognise their name on their cup and enjoy reading stories with their friends in the book corner. Older children delight in writing their name and identifying the initial sounds of words. Children develop mathematical skills, for example, as they count while playing hide-and-seek and recognise numerals up to 10. Staff support children who have special educational needs well. They work with professionals to provide targeted help to ensure gaps in learning are narrowing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434889
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1095099
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	105
Name of registered person	Chantry Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525347
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2015
Telephone number	01435 868 949

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 51 weeks of the year. There are 15 members of staff, 13 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to a minimum of level 3. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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