

Inspection date	28 February 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Leaders show an uncompromising dedication to raising outcomes for all children. They use highly effective systems for monitoring and evaluating all practice, involving the opinions of staff, children and parents.
- Children flourish in an inspirational learning environment. Staff skilfully plan interesting and challenging activities. All children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN) or who speak English as an additional language, make excellent progress from their starting points.
- Staff provide excellent advice and resources to encourage parents to continue their children's learning at home. Parents value the exceptional care their children receive from the highly nurturing staff.
- All teaching is outstanding. Staff consistently use planned and spontaneous opportunities to encourage children to explore and make new discoveries. Excellent support helps them develop an exceptional love of learning.
- Children are exceptionally sociable and friendly. They are expertly supported to cooperate with one another as they play. They are developing excellent friendships and are courteous and polite with one another.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop innovative and exciting activities to extend children's learning in mathematics.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff, children and parents at suitable times throughout the inspection. The inspector sampled parents' questionnaires and letters and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including records of children's progress, the nursery's self-evaluation and improvement plans, and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Alison Martin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager has extremely high standards for improvement in teaching. She ensures the well-qualified staff team receives excellent training and individual support to provide a highly stimulating learning environment. For example, following training, staff are improving the teaching of mathematics. Safeguarding is effective. Children are kept safe by staff who have excellent knowledge about what to do if they have concerns about their safety or welfare. Extremely thorough monitoring of children's progress helps identify when individuals or groups of children need extra support. Excellent relationships with other professionals help children receive timely and significant interventions to help reduce any gaps in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff make precise assessments of children's next steps in learning. They closely observe what children are interested in to expertly extend their learning and develop their creativity and imaginations. For example, children are fascinated by pirates, so staff support them to build a 'ship' from large blocks and make 'telescopes' with recycled materials. Their communication and language skills are supported extremely well. For instance, as young children play in the snow they are given new words to describe it, such as 'icy', 'freezing' and 'bitter'. All children are skilfully encouraged to listen to appropriately planned, high-quality stories that develop their growing love of literacy. For example, children can listen to recordings of stories in their home language as well as in English.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely happy with staff, who are exceedingly calm and reassuring. Children demonstrate exceptionally good behaviour especially during mealtimes. They delight in sharing the well-prepared and highly nutritious food, and talk with one another at the table. Children quickly learn how food keeps them healthy, such as helping them have strong muscles. They have an in-depth awareness of the needs of others. For instance, they cooperate extremely well with others and help one another as they play and develop their wonderfully imaginative ideas. Children learn to understand the needs of other living things, such as the stick insects and the birds that they help to look after in the cold weather.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are highly focused and totally engaged in their chosen activities. They develop increasing dexterity and physical skills. Children actively explore and experiment with their early writing, such as using sticks to draw in the snow or printing with paint. They confidently use mathematical language in their play. For instance, they talk about building the 'longest' ladder with construction toys. Children develop excellent skills to help them continue making outstanding progress in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY490599
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1030711
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 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Catkins Child Care Sussex Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903347
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01403 258 962

Catkins Nursery registered in 2015. It is an independent and privately owned nursery that operates next to the Needles Children and Family Centre in Three Acres. The nursery provides day care from Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 13 members of staff, 10 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. One member of staff holds qualified teacher status.

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