

# The Farmhouse

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number** EY360002  
**Inspection date** 18/03/2009  
**Inspector** Fran Fielder

**Setting address** Ardingly College, College Road, Ardingly, HAYWARDS  
HEATH, West Sussex, RH17 6SQ  
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**Type of setting** Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

## Description of the setting

The Farmhouse was registered in 2007 and operates from a separate building within the pre-preparatory department of Ardingly College. Children have access to three rooms and a secure outdoor area. They also have access to the school grounds, the swimming pool and the Friends' Barn for physical play and dance.

The nursery is registered to care for 12 children aged two years. Spaces are also provided for children aged three and four years. There are currently six children aged two years on roll. The nursery is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 until 18.00 term time only. Children attend from the local community and surrounding areas. The nursery employs four members of staff, all of whom hold an early years qualification, and one is working towards a higher qualification. There are three full-time and one part-time members of staff, including the manager, who is a qualified teacher and has early years professional status. The nursery provides for children who are in receipt of nursery education funding.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. Staff are extremely well qualified and have extensive knowledge of how young children develop and learn. Their knowledge of the individuals in their care means that each child enjoys a wonderful range of valuable experiences that help them achieve their full potential. There are extremely effective procedures in place to ensure children's physical and emotional security. The partnership with parents and others is exceptional and ensures that all adults work together to support and meet children's individual needs. All associated with the nursery are involved in evaluating the service provided. This approach leads to continuous improvement in the outcomes for children.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- increasing children's access to all the resources that reflect disability

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The nursery is extremely well organised by a staff team who are dedicated and enthusiastic. All required policies, procedures and documentation are in place and carefully maintained. Secure recruitment and induction procedures ensure adults

are knowledgeable and suitable to work with children. Regular staff meetings, planning meetings and discussions allow staff the opportunity to contribute ideas that support the smooth and efficient running of the nursery. Staff appraisals ensure ongoing suitability of all adults and help identify training needs. Staff can enrol on courses that lead to higher qualifications as well as courses on specific topics.

Staff have a very good understanding of their responsibility in safeguarding children. They know and follow the procedures if they have any concerns about a child in their care. The security of the premises is excellent and procedures for arrival and departure ensure children are handed over safely to a known adult. Staff carry out regular risk assessments throughout the year, ensuring all areas, equipment and resources are safe.

Staff display children's artwork beautifully, showing how much they value individual achievement. Colourful posters and photographs make all areas of the nursery welcoming. Interaction is excellent and staff spend their time focussed on children's enjoyment and achievement. Staff use observations and assessments to identify achievements and the children's next steps in learning. They use this information to plan activities that cater for individuals. The written plans are used as working documents and are added to according to children's preferences and achievements. The use of open-ended questions and staff's ability to model thinking ensures all children make excellent progress and develop a positive attitude to learning.

Staff gather valuable information before children start, to ensure their welfare needs can be met. This information, together with sensitive observations, gives staff a full insight into the activities that the children will enjoy and benefit from. Parents receive detailed information about all aspects of the provision. Regular newsletters keep parents informed of events and topics through which the children learn. Parents receive both formal and informal feedback regarding their children's progress and are actively encouraged to make appointments should they have any questions or concerns. The Farmhouse Friends, which includes parents and staff, organise a range of social events throughout the year. This close partnership between staff and parents and carers ensures children are extremely well supported at all times.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children play in a stimulating environment where they are very happy and emotionally secure. They have access to an extensive range of good quality resources that offer exciting learning experiences for every child. The resources reflect images of all people in our society and the majority are easy to access. This ensures children develop a positive attitude to diversity. Children learn to respect others, within the nursery and in the wider world, through interesting topics and activities. Staff are excellent role models and, as a result, children are extremely polite and beautifully behaved.

Children confidently make choices about the activities they wish to pursue and

staff are always on hand to give support where needed. Even the very youngest children soon become very independent. They pour their own drinks, make decisions and see to their personal needs. They learn how to keep themselves healthy through discussions, physical activities both indoors and out and well balanced meals. They also learn the importance of rest and good personal hygiene as part of a healthy lifestyle.

There is an excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities that support learning across all areas, ensuring children are always fully involved in worthwhile tasks. There are many opportunities for children to count and apply their mathematical knowledge. Staff involve children in practical mathematical activities, such as comparing the height and size of animals, using tape measures, collecting money for Red Nose Day and weighing ingredients for Mothers' Day muffins.

Children play in a print rich environment and have many opportunities to practise their own writing. They love listening to well read stories and staff encourage them to join in the well known repetitive parts of the stories. Children express their views confidently using good vocabulary and work together to create a class book. They listen to music such as 'Carnival of the Animals' as part of their topic 'Dear Zoo'. Children sing familiar nursery rhymes as well as modern songs such as 'Bob the Builder'. They explore every day sounds and experiment with percussion instruments. Drawing, painting and colouring using a range of media including pastels, chalks and charcoal encourage children's fine motor skills and creative development.

Children enjoy challenges, such as making flaps for their animal paintings, designing and making envelopes as part of the celebration of Chinese New Year and using construction materials to make animals. They learn to use computers and develop good mouse control from an early age. Children play outdoors in all weathers and enjoy walks around the grounds to look at the plants and flowers.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	1
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.