

Whitehall Nursery School

15 Elphinstone Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2EE



Inspection date

2 March 2015

Previous inspection date

26 March 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff are caring, kind and friendly. Children form good relationships with their special key person.
- Children behave well and make friends. They readily share resources and take turns at the computer.
- Children develop good self-care skills and self-confidence. Staff actively encourage children to pour their own drinks and put their coats on to go outside to play.
- Staff plan challenging activities based on their observations and assessments of individual children. This helps all children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff work effectively in partnership with parents and agencies to meet children's needs. They exchange helpful information that enables them to provide continuity of care and learning for individual children.
- The manager and staff team review and evaluate their practices consistently. They competently identify and address areas for development that improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make full use of the conservatory as an inviting space where children can use their senses and extend their imagination and creativity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the use of the conservatory to make it a visually stimulating environment where children can more easily access and explore different media and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff's interactions with children, indoors and in the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector held meetings with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

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

Staff get to know children well and competently identify learning priorities for each child. They regularly share this information with parents so they can continue learning at home. Staff interact effectively with children as they play to promote and extend their learning. They help children develop good communication skills. Staff take an interest in what children say and this results in children becoming confident speakers. Staff introduce and reinforce words that help children describe what they are doing. For example, they talked about what different materials felt like when they were dressing up. Children develop good mathematical skills as they engage in fun activities on the computer. They showed good mouse control as they moved the shapes and spots about on the screen. Children are developing well in the skills they need to move successfully on to school.

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

Children show a strong sense of belonging and security. They move around safely and independently. Children make choices from accessible resources in most areas. However, staff have not fully developed the space in the conservatory as an interesting sensory and creative area. Children do not always have easy access to a wide range of materials to explore and use in this area. Staff teach children about healthy lifestyles effectively. As a result, children adopt good personal hygiene practices. They enjoy healthy snacks that promote their health. Children enjoy plenty of exercise and physical challenge in the garden. They climb and explore the large equipment safely. Children develop good balancing skills as they walk along the plank across the crates. Staff foster children's awareness of the positive effect of exercise on their bodies as they feel and talk about their heartbeats.

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

Staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children. They attend regular training to make sure they have an up-to-date knowledge of child protection procedures. All the required documentation is in place that contributes to children's safety and well-being. Staff carry out robust safety checks on the indoor and outdoor areas. They identify and minimise hazards to children effectively. Staff teach children how to stay safe as they practise emergency evacuation. There are robust recruitment and induction procedures that help ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The manager actively promotes the professional development of staff. They attend further training that helps them enhance their skills to improve children's learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109333
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	839586
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Rosemary White
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2009
Telephone number	01424 436642

Whitehall Nursery School registered in 1982. It operates from the ground floor of a house in Hastings, East Sussex. The nursery opens every weekday during school term times. Opening times are from 8.45am to 4pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs four staff. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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