

# Downham Preparatory School & Montessori Nursery



The Old Rectory, Lynn Road, Stow Bardolph, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3HT

## Inspection date

27 February 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

| The quality and standards of the early years provision                                 | This inspection:<br>Previous inspection: | Outstanding | 1 |
|--|--|-------------|---|
|  | Not applicable                           |             |   |
| How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend |  | Outstanding | 1 |
| The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children            |  | Outstanding | 1 |
| The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision        |  | Outstanding | 1 |
| The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>                   |  |             |   |

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- Adults provide all children with inspiring activities that spark their interest and curiosity. Consequently, children are highly motivated and benefit significantly from the outstanding teaching they receive during their play.
- Exemplary arrangements are in place for ensuring children settle into the nursery easily. The sensitive, enabling approach offered by their key persons means that children flourish during their time here.
- Children work harmoniously with their peers and children of differing ages, and develop the capacity to care about one another. They learn useful life skills and form friendships which endure.
- Children investigate the wider world in a wonderful variety of ways, as they study artefacts from other countries. They participate in ribbon dancing as they explore the traditions associated with Chinese New Year.
- Safeguarding is of the utmost importance to the nursery and adults are vigilant about children's welfare and safety. Stringent recruitment and induction procedures ensure that only those suitable to work with children do so.
- The outstanding approach to training is central to the nursery's success. Adults are encouraged to improve their skills and value the frequent opportunities offered. Children, therefore, receive high quality teaching, which maximises their progress.
- Exceptionally positive messages are conveyed to teach children to live healthily. Personal care routines are mastered and they learn about foods that are good for them, as they grow their own produce and cook soups, and other nutritious foods.



## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- sharpen the already excellent focus on children's physical skills, through the development and implementation of associated training, thereby extending the use of the outdoor learning environment even further and offering children a greater degree of freedom.

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspector observed activities in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector spent time with the manager of the provision and spoke to adults and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of all adults, their qualifications and the provider's processes for self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including children's records, learning and development information, staff records, and a selection of policies and procedures.

## **Inspector**

Deborah Hunt

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is outstanding. Adults offer children individualised learning. They differentiate and extend activities to suit their specific needs. Children are active learners who autonomously select resources which superbly promote their physical, personal, social and emotional development. Adults skilfully question children to encourage their thinking as they create farms with fields, fences and horses and carefully paint their own interpretation of a daffodil. They enhance children's learning as they offer them new words, support their investigations, and encourage their curiosity. Babies receive particularly nurturing care and attention. They confidently pull themselves up to standing and take initial steps into the outstretched arms of a trusted adult. Their emerging vocabulary develops rapidly as they listen to words delivered in the context of their play, such as, excavator, digger and tractor. Children are superbly prepared for their future learning as they sing and read daily and mathematics is deftly interwoven into routine activities throughout the day. Younger children share books together, discussing familiar characters and predicting what will happen next. Assessments of children's progress are precise and effectively inform planning to match children's individual next steps in learning.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding**

Children's emotional well-being is superbly promoted from the outset. Very gradual introduction procedures offer children sensitive, individualised support as they make the transition from home into the nursery. Children develop strong bonds with their key person. Adults establish firm partnerships with parents. They share detailed information and develop mutually beneficial approaches to enhance children's experience. Children flourish as they become independent and learn useful social skills, such as, kindness, consideration and how to negotiate, and take turns. Adults skilfully foster their self-confidence and help them develop self-reliance and a positive, spirited approach to life. The structure of this nursery prepares children holistically for life at school. For example, children acquire concentration and listening skills and learn tolerance for others.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding**

Leadership and management of the nursery are exceptional. The manager's comprehensive understanding of her role and responsibilities across all requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage is successfully conveyed to the staff team. She rigorously monitors the success of educational programmes, staff practice and children's progress from their initial starting points. Self-reflective practice, which harnesses the opinions of children, parents and other professionals, is used to bring about continuous, far-reaching improvements. Parental feedback is extremely positive, with comments, such as 'they have absolutely nailed it here', and 'each child gets such an individual experience'. Partnerships with other professionals are excellent which ensures children's individual needs are fully met.

## Setting details

|                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | EY305661                       |
| <b>Local authority</b>             | Norfolk                        |
| <b>Inspection number</b>           | 856587                         |
| <b>Type of provision</b>           |                                |
| <b>Registration category</b>       | Childcare - Non-Domestic       |
| <b>Age range of children</b>       | 0 - 5                          |
| <b>Total number of places</b>      | 52                             |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>  | 40                             |
| <b>Name of provider</b>            | Elizabeth-Jane Laffeaty-Sharpe |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b> | Not applicable                 |
| <b>Telephone number</b>            | 01366 388066                   |

Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery was registered in 1984. It is privately owned and follows the Montessori educational philosophy. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

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