

Blue Willow Nursery School



Busbridge Village Hall, Brighton Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XG

Inspection date

11 March 2015

Previous inspection date

24 November 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 form positive relationships with children. The key person system is effective and children settle quickly.
- The staff promote children's language development well. They reinforce new words with children who are developing their language skills, and through meaningful conversations they help children to think for themselves and solve problems.
- Staff promote healthy eating and healthy practices. As a result, children learn about healthy lifestyles.
- Staff provide a good range of activities that motivate children to learn. Consequently, children gain the skills necessary for the next stage in their learning.
- Partnerships with parents and other providers are strong. This helps to provide a consistent approach to children's learning and development.
- The management team evaluate their practice effectively in order to drive continual improvements to their practice and children's outcomes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are few opportunities for children to see print and labels in the environment, including words in children's home languages, to strengthen their literacy skills.
- Children are not always able to freely access technological toys, to enhance their technology skills and to strengthen their opportunities to make independent choices.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to strengthen their literacy skills through labels and print in the environment, that also include the home languages of those children learning English
- consider making technology resources more readily available, to enhance opportunities for children to make independent choices and further develop their technological skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting.
- The inspector examined a sample of policies, documents and children's records.
- The inspector observed children and staff, and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents, staff and children to gain their views.
- The inspector discussed the self-evaluation process with the manager.

Inspector

Alison Southard

Inspection findings

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

Staff have good knowledge of how children learn and develop. They prepare children well for their eventual move to school. They promote early reading and writing skills effectively with a wide range of activities. For example, children enjoyed looking at books independently and at group times, and staff helped children learn to recognise letters and write their names. This helps them to begin to understand that print conveys meaning. However, there are limited opportunities for children to see print and labels in the environment, including print in the home languages of those children who are learning English, to strengthen their understanding. Children seek out staff to join their play. For example, children invited staff to sit on the train they had created from chairs. Children play cooperatively and form friendships. Staff count with children through everyday routines and discuss numbers during activities to reinforce mathematics. They observe children at play, assess their progress and share their findings with parents.

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

Children play happily and show confidence as they explore the environment. They form close relationships with staff. This helps them to feel safe and secure. Staff provide children with an abundance of choice. However, the way in which staff store technology toys means that children do not access them independently to further enhance their technological skills. Children happily explore the outdoor environment and make good use of the resources available. Staff remind children of the need for safety and carry out evacuation drills on a regular basis. Staff help children to develop their social skills. They remind children to use good manners and give gentle reminders to share, when there is a need. Consequently, behaviour is good. Staff promote hygiene effectively. Children follow regular routines of hand washing and develop their self-care skills well.

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

The management team works well together to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They demonstrate a thorough awareness of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. They carry out risk assessments and follow safe practices to safeguard children in their care. For example, they carry out checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Partnerships with parents are strong. The sharing of information allows parents to become involved in their children's learning. Ongoing training and supervision for staff helps to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to carry out their roles and responsibilities confidently. Staff monitor children's learning closely and plan for their individual needs. This helps to improve outcomes for children and, as a result, all children, including those learning English, make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	119947
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	846167
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Sarah Gillian Woodhams
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2009
Telephone number	01483 422510

Blue Willow Nursery School registered in 1994 and is situated in Godalming, Surrey. The nursery school opens five days a week, during school term time, from 9am until 12.15pm. Four staff members work with the children, of whom one has Qualified Teacher Status and two have relevant childcare qualifications to level 3. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four.

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