

Valley Farm Nursery School

Valley Farm, Sharrington, HOLT, Norfolk, NR24 2PE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

26 March 2015

10 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff's quality of teaching is consistently high. Consequently, children are very motivated to learn and make rapid progress across the seven areas of learning. This ensures that they are very well prepared to move on to school.
- Children are cared for in a very safe, vibrant and eminently challenging environment, where the staff provide an excellent range of toys and resources. These are used extremely well to promote and maximise children's learning.
- Children's language development is a priority in the setting. They have many excellent opportunities to develop their speech and language, and extend their vocabulary through a variety of activities.
- Staff are particularly skilled and sensitive in helping children form secure emotional attachments. As a result, children's emotional well-being is very well met. Children are developing independence and their behaviour is exceptional.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Robust systems are in place for the recruitment and supervision of staff. As a result, a strong team has been recruited and retained.
- Leadership is inspirational. Highly effective systems for self-evaluation give careful and thorough consideration to every aspect of the provision, which ensures that the management is constantly improving the already exceptional practice.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals make an outstanding contribution to meeting all children's needs. Consequently, children's needs are swiftly identified and exceptionally well met.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the analysis of the robust tracking of children's progress, to further reflect upon the impact of the quality of teaching for specific groups of children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and outdoor area.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to the manager and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff working within the setting, and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.

Inspector

Lianne McElvaney

Inspection findings

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

The highly skilled staff team have an excellent understanding of the different ways in which children learn. They plan a wide range of activities based around children's current interests, in order to extend their learning. For example, a child interested in pirates makes a treasure map and then a treasure chest, learning about flat and three-dimensional shapes. The child learns about shapes in the environment as they hunt for a circle to draw round to make coins as treasure. The procedures for assessing children's progress are accurate and robust, and enable parents to support their children's learning at home. Children are exceptionally motivated to play, explore and discover. For example, they develop an understanding of size as they stand next to a life-size picture of a four-metre-high elephant. This enables them to compare themselves to the size of the elephant. Children's independent play is exceptionally well supported by staff. Their interest in imaginative play is fully promoted through the creative use of the environment. For example, they follow and re-paint the elephant's foot prints, which also develops their mark-making skills. Children develop key skills for future learning, asking questions and solving problems.

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

Staff are very accomplished in recognising the uniqueness of each child and providing for their individual needs and interests. Children form strong attachments with key persons, feel safe and have a clear sense of belonging. The calm atmosphere of the nursery and the highly effective partnerships staff enjoy with parents help all children to settle well. This extends to the successful relationships with school staff and other professionals, and fully supports children as they move to new settings. Staff act as superb role models and encourage children with plenty of praise. Staff are fully aware of their responsibilities in keeping children safe and are particularly vigilant while allowing them to take manageable risks in their play. These experiences significantly extend children's confidence and challenge their abilities, which motivates them to succeed.

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

Staff have an exceptional understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Management implement highly robust recruitment and vetting systems to ensure all people working with the children are suitable to do so. They have highly effective arrangements for induction and ongoing supervision so that all staff have a thorough understanding of their individual roles and responsibilities. Excellent self-reflection continually improves all aspects of the provision and demonstrates a strong drive to maintain the highest levels of achievement. Staff constantly and effectively monitor and track children's progress. Further cohort tracking would enable them to gain evidence of specific aspects of the impact of their teaching. Therefore, they would be able to continue to revise their teaching techniques and adapt practice even further to meet the learning and development needs of all groups and individuals.

Setting details

Unique reference number	254332
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	854856
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Claire Elizabeth Rivett
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2009
Telephone number	01263 861065

Valley Farm Nursery School was registered in 1995. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, one at level 3 and one at level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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