

Friends Forest Nursery

Manor Road, Ash, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 6QH



Inspection date

25 March 2015

Previous inspection date

5 February 2010

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		Outstanding	1
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 clearly identify children's next steps in learning and are proactive in narrowing any gaps in their development. Children make good progress in their learning and staff prepare them well for smooth transfers between age groups and room staff.
- Daily routines and outings run very efficiently and are extremely well organised thanks to the exceptional teamwork of the staff. Staff make comprehensive risk assessments, maintain clear medical records, and place the highest priority on safeguarding children.
- Children enjoy the different rich and purposeful learning environments that staff use well to promote children's social, communication and physical skills.
- Staff are enthusiastic playmates, passionate about doing a good job, and highly committed to meeting children's individual needs.
- Recent changes to the supervision process help to engage staff in establishing clear and achievable targets for the nursery and for themselves. These build on their strengths within the team, support their individual development and enable them to enhance children's progress.
- Senior leaders have a clear understanding of the nursery's strengths and have ambitious plans for further improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently sustain their conversations with children in enough depth to capitalise on the rich experiences they plan for children, to help them reach the very highest levels of achievement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the quality of teaching further by helping staff identify strategies they can use to inspire children's imaginations and challenge their thinking to even higher levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a wide range of activities across all areas of the nursery and talked with staff and children about what they were doing.
- The inspector reviewed documents and procedures relating to safeguarding and equal opportunities, and checked a selection of other policies.
- The inspector sampled a range of children's records, the nursery's planning, evaluation, and the information exchanged with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed written communication from parents.
- The inspector met with the leadership team and conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

Inspection findings

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

Staff are good at meeting the needs of the children in their care because they are well-qualified, competent and keen to promote children's individual achievements. Staff work effectively with parents to establish and review children's skills and current interests. They plan stimulating and varied activities on this basis, and accurately assess children's learning over time. Staff reflect upon the quality of children's learning experiences and continually strive to improve them. However, they do not always reflect upon how they, as teachers, challenge children's thinking and inspire their imaginations. There is, therefore, scope to raise children's achievements to even higher levels. Staff value the specialist guidance they receive from outside agencies as they strive to provide optimal support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Consequently, regardless of their starting points, children of all ages make good progress in preparation for the next stage in their learning, including starting school.

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

Children are happy and settle quickly into their choice of activities at the nursery. Even the youngest children demonstrate an enthusiasm and confidence to explore their rich and varied surroundings. This is because they have built strong and trusting relationships with staff, who are all highly effective in meeting their needs. Behaviour is generally excellent and children demonstrate teamwork, care for each other and self-control. Staff trained in Forest School practices nurture children's physical skills and enjoyment of nature through regular adventures in the adjacent woodlands. Toddlers learn to manage increasing levels of risk for themselves as they climb over logs and splash through puddles. Older children learn important safety rules as they walk by the road, construct with rope and sharpen sticks to toast marshmallows over an open fire. Managers ensure that policies, procedures and practice linked to safeguarding and protecting children's welfare are exceptionally strong both within the nursery and during outdoor explorations.

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

Strong leadership across the chain of nurseries ensures all areas of practice are regularly evaluated and that there are clear targets for further improvement. Managers understand and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to a high level. They monitor and evaluate the progress children make in each age group to identify where new resources, room changes or staff training will be beneficial. A current development project focuses on the move from paper to electronic tracking systems. The purpose of this is to provide quicker access for parents to share in, and contribute to, their children's nursery life. Communication from parents indicates their delight in their children's development and reassurance in the commitment of the staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	120040
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	836066
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Friends Private Day Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2010
Telephone number	01252 405544

Friends Forest Nursery registered in 1999. It operates from self-contained premises within the grounds of Ash Manor School in Ash, Surrey. The nursery is open each week day from 7.30am to 6pm, excluding Christmas and Bank Holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four. Of the 14 staff who work with the children, 13 hold relevant qualifications at level 3 and above. There are five members of staff who hold relevant degrees and one holds Early Years Professional Status. The nursery also employs an administrator.

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