

St Hugh of Lincoln Nursery School

Our Lady of Lourdes School, Curbridge Road, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 5JZ



Inspection date

20 April 2015

Previous inspection date

2 March 2011

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

- Children have plenty of opportunities to extend their physical skills. For example, they crawl through tunnels and learn to pedal bicycles, which challenges their movement and coordination well.
- Staff provide highly stimulating environments, both indoors and outdoors, to promote and challenge children's all-round learning.
- Children use their independence skills extensively throughout the day because staff are highly skilled at encouraging children to try things for themselves.
- Children enjoy healthy lifestyles because staff constantly promote healthy eating and provide them with excellent opportunities for fresh air and exercise.
- The well-established relationships that staff form with external agencies make a strong contribution towards meeting children's needs, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The manager provides strong leadership. She involves staff, parents and children in helping to identify strengths and weaknesses in the provision. This means that staff are able to make continuous improvements to the service offered to children and families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff, on occasion, do not always extend children's learning effectively through their use of questioning, and by giving them extra time to share experiences further at group times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children to share their own knowledge and ideas by using more skilful questioning and allowing more time to respond to questions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the children, staff and the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, suitability records, policies and procedures, and learning and development.

Inspector

Helen Porter

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a wide variety of activities to promote learning and development across all areas of learning. They complete thorough planning and assessments which focus on each child's needs. By sharing children's next steps in learning frequently with all staff and parents they help every child make good progress. Staff use group times to support children's progress in social skills. However, at times they do not always successfully encourage children to share past experiences in full detail, or allow them sufficient time to respond. The manager and staff have good relationships with parents. They understand the importance of using information from home to further support children's development. Staff keep parents well informed about their children's learning in a variety of ways, which provides a consistent approach to their development.

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

Staff are highly skilled at helping all children to form secure emotional attachments, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They welcome every child to the group in several languages, and help children who speak other languages exceptionally well. Staff make all resources child accessible. As a result, children explore the nursery school with high confidence and select resources independently. Staff provide extensive opportunities through daily routines to promote children's self-help skills. For example, children carefully peel and cut up their own fruits at snack times. Staff are excellent role models and play alongside children, teaching them to share and take turns successfully. This helps children to form excellent friendships with each other and quickly understand what behaviour is acceptable. Staff teach children to keep themselves safe by providing excellent opportunities such as trips to the local fire station to learn about fire safety.

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

The manager and staff have a secure understanding of the safeguarding requirements. They fully understand their responsibilities to safeguard children. Staff constantly carry out risk assessments and review safeguarding policies. The manager maintains robust recruitment and supervision procedures to help check the ongoing suitability of staff effectively. Staff have regular training and the manager encourages them to cascade what they learn to the rest of team. For example, staff share their learning about peer observations and they have started to introduce them to help to support and improve the quality of staff performance and outcomes for children. The manager monitors individual children's progress and demonstrates how she has used tracking to ensure that the educational programme meets all children's needs, even specific groups of children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	134467
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	841070
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	82
Name of provider	St. Hugh of Lincoln Nursery School Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 March 2011
Telephone number	01993 706636

St Hugh of Lincoln Nursery school opened in 1995. It operates from its own building within the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, in Witney, Oxfordshire. The nursery opens between 8.30am to 3pm, five days a week, during school term times. There are eight staff working with the children, six of whom have early years qualifications. The manager has Early Years Professional Status and one member of staff has Qualified Teaching Status.

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