

Caterpillars Montessori Nursery School

Appleton Hall, West Green Road, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8RE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

21 April 2015

19 January 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	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 use detailed observation records, and their knowledge of individual children's interests, to plan a broad range of activities. As a result, children are enthusiastic and eager to explore and learn.
- The quality of teaching is consistently of a very high standard as experienced, caring staff enjoy nurturing children's skills in creating and thinking imaginatively.
- Staff offer an excellent range of initiatives to engage, support and build on parents' interests in their children's development. This helps to provide children with continuity and confidence in their learning and care.
- Staff treat children with a great deal of respect and this results in a harmonious, caring environment for everyone, where every child is valued and every family welcomed.
- Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff are wonderful role models who provide consistent guidance and strategies to promote positive behaviour.
- Staff training in safeguarding, their use of comprehensive risk assessments and reviews of any accidents or incidents, help to ensure children's safety remains a priority.
- The manager and her team work exceptionally well together, as they know and complement each other's strengths. Their high levels of commitment to the children and professional conduct underpin all that they do.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's interest in helping staff complete domestic tasks by making resources, such as mops, more accessible.

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, including those relating to safeguarding, staffing, supervision, risk assessment, equal opportunities, and health and safety.
- The inspector sampled a range of children's records, the nursery's systems for planning, evaluation, and for exchanging information 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 outstanding

Highly qualified staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. They give children time to explore and practice new skills, build confidence in their abilities and fuel their own passion for learning. When children seek to share their play, staff gently prompt them to think deeper, express their ideas and plan their next moves. Staff marry together Montessori teaching philosophy and the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements to create high-quality educational experiences for children. Children pretend to bake and decorate cakes in their French patisserie. Many of the children also regularly learn some Spanish, and this underpins their enthusiasm to add a little French pronunciation as they sell their baked goods. Children are enthusiastic helpers but are not always able to independently select items, such as mops, to join in domestic tasks. Staff have a clear understanding of children's individual strengths and needs, based on daily observations and precise assessments. This helps them to ensure that they focus their teaching and nurturing on helping children achieve their best possible levels of progress.

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

Staff develop respectful and trusting relationships with children and their parents. The manager begins to establish this ethos from her first discussions with parents. Consequently, children are emotionally secure, happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff plan the environment and resources to support children's growing independence and physical fitness. This enables children to pursue their own lines of interest and enquiry, and take pride in their own achievements. Staff effectively model strategies for children to express courtesy and respect for each other. Groups of children cooperate well, for example, they play mathematical board games or work together on garden designs. Children learn about making healthy personal and environmental choices in the food they grow and the materials they recycle. They explore these further at snack time and as they create new recipes in their role-play patisserie and mud kitchen.

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

The manager thoroughly understands her role in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She ensures that her staff know, and use, effective policies and procedures to support children's health, safety and well-being. Staff also help children understand how to keep themselves safe as they manage risks in the playground, handle sharp tools and explore their local community. Capable, well-supervised and trained staff contribute to sharply focused evaluations of their practice. They share the manager's drive to maintain the highest levels of achievement for all children. The high-quality teaching and care ensures that children are confident, articulate and have the skills needed for their future learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110247
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	824931
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	Angela Louise Pagett
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2009
Telephone number	01252 844706

Caterpillars Montessori Nursery School registered in 1996. It is located in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. The nursery is open each weekday, during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30am to 12:30pm, and 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Staff also offer an early start at 9.15am and a lunch club. The nursery is closed on Friday afternoons. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three, and four. Nine staff work with the children. One holds Qualified Teacher Status and seven hold relevant qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy of teaching.

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