

Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

27 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The quality of teaching across the nursery is outstanding. Staff provide an excellent range of high-quality learning experiences for children. As a result, children are highly motivated, eager to explore and develop a curiosity for learning.
- Children's behaviour is impeccable. This is because staff create a warm and caring environment where they teach children to be respectful and understanding of others. Therefore, children play extremely well together and cooperate fully with each other.
- Arrangements for safeguarding are firmly in place. The implementation of the comprehensive policies and procedures reinforces the high priority given to the safety and welfare of all children.
- Children form exceptional relationships with the staff who care for them each day. This means children's individual needs are always met extremely well and children form strong attachments with staff.
- Excellent partnerships between parents and the nursery staff ensure that parents are well informed about their child's developmental progress.
- Staff are highly qualified and the manager recognises the positive impact of staff's continued professional development on the quality of care and learning opportunities that children receive.
- The manager is passionate about ensuring children have an excellent start to their learning, and is highly effective in driving improvements.
- Children's emotional well-being is given the utmost priority by a truly caring staff team. Younger children settle quickly as staff support them extremely well and are attentive to their every need.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the outside area further so that it provides children with even greater experiences to investigate the natural world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint inspection with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of paperwork, including records on children and staff, policies, procedures, accident records and action plans.
- The inspector sought the views of parents through discussion and written comments.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

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

Systems for the assessment of children are sharply focused, clearly showing that children make exceptional progress. Staff monitor children's learning thoroughly and are able to identify any additional support that children may need. Children are, therefore, well prepared for moving to the next stage of learning or starting school. Inspiring teaching techniques engage children during play and encourage their learning. Children use chalk to mark and keep track of the score while playing with a bat and a ball. Children follow their own ideas and learning without interruption. This supports their strong abilities to solve problems and be independent in the decisions they make. There are very good examples of children's emerging writing skills and children are proud of how they write and recognise their own name. Children enjoy a rich outdoor learning environment. They use planters and pots to grow plants and dig in, and there are plans to add raised beds to enhance children's awareness of the natural world.

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

Staff make detailed and precise records when children start in the nursery, based on observations and discussions with parents. Children are extremely independent and confident decision makers, as they are actively involved in making their own choices throughout the day. Staff involve children in making decisions about boundaries and rules, teaching children to keep themselves safe. Children's health, safety and physical well-being are strongly fostered as staff implement a range of positive policies and safe working practices. Staff have used guidance from a national child safety campaign to help children recognise what is and isn't appropriate in their personal care support.

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

The management and staff team are committed to providing an excellent quality of care and education to the children. The manager is proactive and meets challenges and barriers with an enthusiastic attitude. Extremely effective partnerships are in place with a range of outside agencies, local schools and education providers. Robust recruitment processes, regular supervision and checking of staff performance lead to a high level of quality care and education throughout the nursery. The already well-qualified staff attend constant training to enhance the educational programme. Incisive self-evaluation is embedded in practice and identifies how continual improvements are being made.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133627
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	836383
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	Julia Neal
Date of previous inspection	27 September 2011
Telephone number	01295 780580

The Ark nursery registered in 1997 and is set in the rural village of Epwell, near Banbury, in Oxfordshire. The nursery opens each weekday from 9am to 4pm. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff who work directly with the children. Of these, all staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one who holds Early Years Teacher Status. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

