

Chiddingstone Nursery School



Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7AD

Inspection date

28 April 2015

Previous inspection date

30 April 2010

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	Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children	Outstanding	Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision	Outstanding	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 is consistently excellent. Well-qualified staff ensure all children make the best progress possible from their starting points on entry, including those who speak other languages at home and those with additional needs.
- Children are extremely well prepared to start school as a result of the close relationships with the local school and the focus on early literacy and mathematics. Staff use questioning expertly to extend children's thinking skills and engender a love of learning.
- Staff consistently have an excellent understanding of safeguarding. They expertly teach children how to manage risk and keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Staff form highly successful partnerships between the setting and home. These value children's learning wherever it takes place and help staff to meet children's physical care needs extremely well.
- The nursery has excellent links with other local early years settings. These allow staff to share best practice and provide children with a highly consistent learning experience.
- The manager and staff are extremely reflective of their practice and always strive to improve. The manager builds up an in-depth picture of the nursery provision using audits and the views of staff, parents and children. This ensures sharply focused improvement plans that further deepen learning experiences for the children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise the learning opportunities and early reading skills of all children, including those who learn English as an additional language, by considering extending the range of books and other print in different languages.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff in the inside and outside environments.
- The inspector and manager observed an activity together.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took note of their views.
- The inspector reviewed documentation, including children's records.
- The inspector spoke to staff and met with the manager.

Inspector

Lizzie Cotton

Inspection findings

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

Staff use perceptive questioning to extend children's thinking. Staff see every situation as a learning opportunity. For example, children counted beyond twenty to find out how long it would take an adult to unlock the outside door. Staff provide a stimulating environment with a wealth of activities for children to explore. These include creative play using real equipment in the home corner, and exploring gravity with water and guttering. The staff make the nursery welcoming for children with hello signs in all their home languages but this use of other texts could be developed, for instance with more dual-language books and print. The staff's enthusiasm ignites children's interests. Closely observing a snail created a sense of wonder. Reading a story with expression and thoughtful questioning produced delight in rhyming words and sounds. Staff know children extremely well and expertly share information with parents. This enables staff to make incisive assessments about children's progress, which they use thoughtfully to plan what children need to learn next. This means that all children, whatever their needs, make excellent progress.

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

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They look after each other and play collaboratively. Children are brilliantly prepared for the next stage. They are remarkably independent, for instance, when clearing their leftovers into the recycling bin or cleaning the blackboard themselves so that they can write their names. Children learn how to stay healthy with lots of physical play outside. They build dens, guide trikes and explore slides of different height. Snack times are used to maximum effect, with staff discussing healthy choices and even introducing the idea of, 'superfoods'. Safeguarding is central to the nursery's practice and philosophy. Staff empower children to understand how to keep themselves safe and give them lots of practical opportunities to learn about risk. These include using suitable real knives to make sandwiches and whittling wood when outside. Staff have close links with the local primary school. They provide outstanding teaching of self-care skills.

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

The manager has an excellent understanding of requirements, which are met to a very high standard. She systematically evaluates quality using a range of methods, placing high value on parent feedback. She uses this to make perceptive changes to the provision, driving ongoing improvement and maintaining exceptional provision. The robust recruitment, supervision and buddying systems ensure that staff put all their knowledge into producing outstanding practice. Staff deployment is highly effective which ensures they offer support and encouragement just as children need it. Staff have excellent links with other local providers ensuring consistent high-quality support for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY295610
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	827002
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Chiddingstone Nursery School Committee
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2010
Telephone number	01892 871315

Chiddingstone Nursery School registered in 2004. It is located in the grounds of Chiddingstone Castle, near Edenbridge, Kent. The nursery is open from 9am until 3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from 9am until 12 noon on Thursdays and Fridays. The nursery is open during school terms. There are five members of staff; three hold a relevant qualification at level 3 and one is an Early Years Professional. Staff hold further qualifications in Special Educational Needs and Leadership and Management. The nursery has close links with the local primary school. The nursery provides funded places for free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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