

Oak Cottage Nursery

Oak Cottage, Warren Road, BRIGHTON, BN2 6DA



Inspection date

24 April 2015

Previous inspection date

20 August 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

- Highly effective, stimulating and exciting teaching is evident throughout the setting, meaning that children are motivated and active learners.
- Partnerships with parents are outstanding. Staff use innovative means of communication ensuring a consistent approach to meeting the needs of children in the setting and at home.
- Children develop strong relationships with staff ensuring their personal, social and emotional needs are met. These effective attachments give the children a secure base from which to explore and flourish remarkably well.
- Key people show exceptional skill in supporting their children's personal, social and emotional development. Children are therefore extremely well prepared for moves within the setting and ultimately on to school.
- Management and leadership are inspirational and extremely effective. Highly reflective practice is fully embedded, ensuring all children gain high levels of achievement in all areas of development.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are exceptionally well supported through partnerships with parents and relevant professionals, such as speech and language specialists.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more use of outings in the local environment to enhance children's understanding and awareness of the world around them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector toured the premises, both inside and out, observing the effectiveness of resources, equipment and staff.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and children through discussions.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and a member of staff.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and carried out a meeting with the manager to discuss safeguarding, recruitment, staff training, and other management responsibilities.

Inspector

Claire Watson

Inspection findings

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

Staff have expert staff knowledge of the areas of learning and provide a rich variety of well-planned activities. Children are expected to try hard and to have a go and are not afraid to make mistakes. Staff make timely interventions to support children effectively in their development, through accurate and highly effective assessment. They place a strong emphasis on nurturing children's personal, social, emotional and physical development and their communication and language skills. There is an excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities and staff are skilled at giving just the right amount of help to promote and not quash children's creativity. Children proudly make crowns from paper that they competently cut, stick and write on. 'I have put my name on mine', says one child. Children exude happiness and high levels of self-esteem and staff nurture individuality. Staff swiftly identify any gaps in progress and provide tailored support, enabling all children to make exceptional progress in their learning.

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

Children are motivated and independent learners and are highly confident. In the safe and secure garden, children take controlled risks on the play equipment. Children decorated paper plates with feathers, glue and glitter and decided to 'hang them up in the sunshine for the birds'. Children demonstrate high levels of independence. They take turns and share equipment and are very polite and kind to each other. Staff are extremely effective at role modelling good behaviour and show high expectations of the children. Children enjoy occasional visitors, such as fire officers, although staff do not organise regular outings to enhance children's understanding of the world. Staff are vigilant to the safety of the children. They ensure that floors are kept tidy and clean and encourage children to do the same, clearly explaining why. Meticulous risk assessments are continually carried out enabling the children to develop in a safe and secure environment. Children have an abundant choice of resources that are fully accessible to them, both indoors and out.

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

Management ensures that all staff follow a path of professional development. This enables them to continually improve their knowledge and experience, giving children the best possible chance of reaching their potential in learning and development. Staff are up to date with current safeguarding and child protection practices through regular meetings and dissemination of information. Staff supervision is extremely effective in monitoring the outcomes of the children and the input of the staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY385269
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	822359
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	121
Name of provider	Oak Cottage Nursery
Date of previous inspection	20 August 2009
Telephone number	01273 680541

The nursery was registered in 2008. It operates from a converted cottage in Brighton. The nursery opens each weekday, from 8.30am to 3.30pm, during term time. It will also provide school holiday care for the children attending, according to demand. The manager and a supervisor both hold the relevant foundation degrees whilst the deputy manager holds an NVQ level 3 childcare qualification. There are 16 other staff of whom 13 also hold relevant childcare qualifications to level 3. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years

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