

Apples Nursery

Saga Pavillion, Enbrook Park, Sandgate High Street, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3SE



Inspection date

29 April 2015

Previous inspection date

7 April 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 enthusiastic and committed staff team provides highly stimulating and exciting learning experiences. Their excellent knowledge of how children learn, together with their recognition of each individual child's needs and interests, ensures all children are engaged and eager to explore and learn.
- Children form very strong bonds with their key person, as well as other staff. This means that children feel happy and confident to explore. Staff have highly impressive strategies in place to support babies and children moving on to the next stage of their lives.
- The management team is dedicated to reflecting on their practice. This means that they are constantly seeking ways to further improve and deliver additional innovative ideas to strengthen their already existing excellent quality of teaching.
- All staff demonstrate that they are motivated to provide babies and children with high-quality care and learning experiences. Opportunities for children to enhance their understanding of letter sounds are slightly less evident.
- The managers and staff have an outstanding understanding of child protection and how to safeguard and protect children.
- Staff are very well qualified and extremely experienced. They use accurate observations and assessments of children's progress to plan and provide challenging activities. As a result, all children make significant progress in their learning.
- Children's good health and well-being is supported exceptionally well by staff who provide them with healthy, nutritionally balanced food at all mealtimes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further develop children's literacy skills by sounding out simple letter and words, such as children's names.

Inspection activities

- The manager gave the inspector a tour of all areas of the building used by the children.
- The inspector observed staff and spoke to them at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the managers.
- The inspector spoke to parents about their views on the service that they receive.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, safeguarding procedures, planning and policies.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an exceptionally detailed knowledge of all learning areas and they demonstrate a passion to continue to build upon their impressive teaching skills. They provide the children with an environment which is rich in print, to support them to learn that words have meanings. Overall, staff promote children's literacy skills effectively. For example, they make excellent use of repetition, and increase children's vocabulary as they reinforce words with actions. Staff support babies to use their senses as they sit with friends to explore the texture of the cornflour. As a result, they develop their social skills very well. The excellent provision to support children's communication and language, in partnership with outside professionals, enables children to achieve very well. Staff establish very strong partnerships with parents, who state how exceptionally well informed they feel about their children's development.

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

All babies and children establish exceptionally close attachments with the staff. Consequently, they are content and thoroughly enjoy their time at nursery. The key-person approach is excellent and all staff know their key children extremely well. As a result, babies and children make excellent progress in their personal, social and emotional development. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They interact tremendously well with friends, taking turns riding bikes and showing friends how to make their kites fly high. They show very high levels of confidence and self-esteem. The children walk carefully and safely up the stairs to the restaurant to have their freshly cooked lunch. Staff sit with the children at mealtimes to support their independence as they serve themselves and pour their own drinks. Children learn about a healthy lifestyle, due to the expert teaching they receive from the staff.

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

The management of the nursery is exceptional. They use an excellent system to provide high-quality supervision, training and guidance to support staff. As a result, staff are enthusiastic and motivated to provide outstanding care and exciting learning and development experiences for all children. They continuously monitor children's progress to ensure they quickly identify and target any gaps in children's learning. High levels of support are then put in place, with the help of other professionals where required. The managers, with the support of the organisation, ensure that rigorous and robust procedures are in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff. This ensures that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. The management team uses highly effective systems for evaluating the service they provide to families. This enables them to target areas for improvement exceptionally well and to provide high-quality care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	126975
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840592
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	102
Number of children on roll	114
Name of provider	SAGA Group Ltd
Date of previous inspection	7 April 2011
Telephone number	01303 776300

Apples Nursery registered in 1998. The nursery is owned by Saga Group and is situated in Sandgate, near Folkestone, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children. They support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and also support children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs 34 staff, of whom 30 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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