

Highmoor Nursery School Ltd



Highmoor Memorial Hall, Highmoor Cross, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, Oxfordshire, RG9 5DX

Inspection date	8 May 2015
Previous inspection date	23 January 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Well-qualified staff plan a good range of activities for children that are based on their interests. The staff's effective teaching skills result in all children making good progress.
- Staff form warm and caring relationships with each child. This helps children settle in quickly and helps them actively explore their rich environment, where they feel safe and secure.
- The management team implements comprehensive systems to evaluate their practice, and they consider the views of the children, parents and staff to be fundamental in driving improvement.
- Parents and children are welcomed into this friendly nursery. Staff ensure that key information is shared regularly and that parents are encouraged in the setting.
- Staff establish good links with staff at local schools, which helps prepare children for their move on to school.
- The nursery is well organised. It provides a hygienic, safe and emotionally secure environment for children to explore freely and independently.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not have consistent opportunities to develop their self-help and independence skills during the day. For example, staff do not encourage these skills as consistently at snack time as they do at other times during the day.
- At times, the organisation of group sessions results in some children becoming restless and, on occasion, the older or more able children are not consistently challenged.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to further develop their independence and self-help skills consistently throughout the day
- review arrangements for group sessions, in order to maintain good levels of challenge and engagement appropriate to children's ages and stages of development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed, and spoke to staff and children inside and in the outside area.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and owner.
- The inspector looked at children's records and planning documentation. She also checked evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents on the day and took account of parents' written views.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

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

All staff are effective in their teaching skills. They know children well, seeking detailed information from parents about their interests and progress. Planning and assessment take account of the information from home and are well-matched to each child, which results in them making good progress. Children eagerly participate in the wide range of activities available to them, including karate, French and cooking lessons. As a result, they display high levels of self-esteem and have a positive approach to the learning and play experiences provided. Staff support and extend children's language and communication skills well. Group discussion times provide good opportunities for children to express their ideas. However, some group activities do not consistently maintain children's engagement so, at these times, children become restless and challenges for the older or more able children are limited.

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

The key-person system is well established. Children receive lots of praise and recognition from skilled staff. As a result, children's self-confidence is supported very well. Children are safe because staff are vigilant in their supervision and are effectively deployed to manage the activities. Older children are able to attend to their own toileting needs and use the bathroom when they need to. Mealtimes are a sociable time; staff sit and eat with the children and talk with them to promote healthy lifestyles. However, staff provide fewer opportunities at snack time to extend children's independence skills, compared to other times during the day, as staff butter their toast, prepare their fruit and lay out the tables for the children. Children enjoy the large outside area which is well resourced. They explore the environment, discover the natural world and negotiate the obstacle courses. Consequently, children who learn best outside have good opportunities to do so.

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

The providers and manager clearly understand and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Comprehensive induction training and supervision meetings allow the manager and providers to ensure that staff are suitable to carry out their roles. Staff also attend regular training to improve their practice and the outcomes for children. The provider encourages staff's professional development. The majority of staff now hold recognised early years childcare qualifications. Consequently, staff are well trained to meet the varying needs of the children. Children are effectively safeguarded because the members of the management team have a clear understanding of their roles. Staff attend regular safeguarding training and understand the signs to look out for that may cause concern. Staff carry out daily risk assessments and remind children about safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433900
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	823942
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Highmoor Nursery School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	23 January 2012
Telephone number	01491642162

Highmoor Nursery School registered in 1996 and operates from Highmoor Memorial Hall in the village of Highmoor, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The nursery is open five days a week, from 8.30am until 3.30pm, during term time only. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff who work directly with the children. Of these, eight have appropriate early years qualifications at Level 3 and above. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four.

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