

Phoenix Montessori Nursery

Gayton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4ET



Inspection date

18 May 2015

Previous inspection date

15 June 2011

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

- Staff assess children's learning very promptly, accurately and at frequent intervals. Expert use of valued parental contributions superbly supports children's development.
- Children make remarkable progress in relation to their starting points because the quality of teaching is outstanding. Expert use of wide-ranging strategies and resources superbly support children's learning and development.
- Children have superb opportunities to learn about nature as they care for their African land snail, fly kites they have made in the strong wind and touch hail that falls during a heavy downpour.
- Safeguarding is given the highest priority within the nursery. Staff use their expert knowledge to ensure that children are completely protected.
- Staff completely understand the needs of the children and their families and go to exceptional lengths to ensure they tailor the provision to meet their individual requirements.
- The manager has an exceptional ability to lead and inspire her team, sharing her high-quality vision with them and comprehensively monitoring practice and standards of operation throughout the nursery.
- Exceptional work carried out between the nursery, parents and an extraordinary range of external professionals means children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are superbly supported. This has an incredibly positive effect on their learning and development.
- Children learn about each other and special times in their lives. Families share celebrations by coming in to offer presentations and talk to children about how they mark particular events, helping them learn tolerance and respect for others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the exceptional relationships in place with parents, for example, by ensuring the revised website information for parents is accurately reflected in the updated nursery prospectus.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery with the manager.
- The inspector observed activities taking place throughout the day and made an evaluation of teaching practice seen with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies, procedures and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working within the nursery and the provider's self-evaluation evidence.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Deborah Hunt

Inspection findings

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

Children's learning is superbly managed. Activities are individualised and differentiated to ensure that all children are challenged and make exceptional progress. Every aspect of their learning is designed to promote critical thinking and increase independence. Expert use of resources and equipment enables children to make links to real-life events. The indoor gym becomes Buckingham Palace as children celebrate the birth of a royal princess with their own tea party, requesting the 'royal teapot' be used for the royal wedding. Children enter a magical world as they dress as princes and princesses, drink 'tea' and eat cucumber sandwiches. Staff interact meaningfully with children to further their learning or to confirm new knowledge gained. For example, outside, children use tape measures to find out how tall staff are and work cooperatively to build a castle. Articulate staff captivate their interest, encourage number recognition and extend their vocabulary. Children are active learners and their physical development is exceptional as they make extensive use of the excellent outdoor facilities and indoor climbing equipment.

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

Children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural needs are extraordinarily well met. They learn care and consideration for others as they are encouraged to be helpful, polite and to use good manners. Children experience manageable risk as they confidently consider how high to build steps to climb. Snack times are highly beneficial as children choose and prepare their own snack from a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. They taste pineapple, feel the top they have cut off and learn words, such as prickly and tickly. They discuss planting seeds from the apples they eat and talk about their bird table and the crows and pigeons who visit. Children learn that language can be fun as staff make comments, such as 'Wouldn't it be funny if Peter and Paul the pigeons liked pineapple?' Children respond affectionately to the superb staff role models, demonstrate extremely positive behaviour, and flourish in the exceptionally calm environment. They freely explore and lead their own play through independent access to the excellent range of resources.

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

The manager and her management team have a superb understanding of how to create a successful, inclusive, highly respected nursery. The Early Years Foundation Stage requirements are comprehensively understood and expertly implemented. Excellent use of self-reflection ensures the already outstanding practice evolves, according to new initiatives and children's needs, such as updating the website and prospectus to ensure they reflect current practice. Stringent monitoring of practice, peer observations and 360 degree appraisals further enhance the excellent teaching. Consequently, children benefit from an extremely broad range of imaginative experiences. Extremely robust recruitment and induction procedures mean new staff are appropriate and feel supported. Staff use the considerable skills they gain through frequent training to share excellent new strategies and ideas.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259576
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	854946
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Carol Thomas
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	07887 656 567

Phoenix Montessori Nursery was registered in 1986 and operates from the former social club on the hospital site in Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including one who holds an early years foundation degree and one who holds Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during school term times only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 4pm. They provide funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery cares for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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