

The Oaks Nursery

Hildenborough Primary School, Riding Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9HY



Inspection date	3 June 2015
Previous inspection date	8 July 2010

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

- The partnership working with parents is good. Parents feel welcome and there are good strategies in place to inform them of the progress their children are making in their learning.
- Staff place a high priority on children's well-being, which results in happy, confident and settled children.
- Staff help children to acquire the skills they need for their future learning and eventual move on to school.
- The manager uses a variety of methods to reflect on practice to ensure that improvements are continually being made.
- The well-established staff team uses a variety of teaching methods to ensure all children make good progress in their learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff, on occasion, do not use children's interests to fully extend their learning opportunities.
- Staff do not always take all opportunities to encourage children to make marks for a purpose during their play and increase their awareness that print carries meaning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop children's interests further to ensure all opportunities are taken to fully develop their learning
- enhance opportunities for children to practise their early-writing skills and extend their awareness that print carries meaning in different ways during their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children during the inspection.
- A joint observation was carried out with the manager.
- A sample of documentation, including progress reports and policies, was viewed.
- The inspector spent time in the outside and inside areas of the nursery, observing staff and children.

Inspector

Lynn Grinsell

Inspection findings

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

Staff work in partnership with parents to build a respectful relationship that supports children's learning. Staff identify children's next steps in learning and use these to plan a variety of activities; tailoring their teaching methods according to each child's needs. Parents and staff share information, which helps inform assessments, and this enables parents to continue children's learning at home. Parents state they feel the setting prepares their children well for school. Staff are skilled in questioning children. They constantly talk with children and encourage their communication and language skills well. Staff are skilled at assessing what children know, understand and can do. However, on occasions, staff do not take all opportunities to build on children's interests to extend their learning further. Children have access to a wide range of resources, indoors and out, which encourages their independence and helps them find new ways of doing things. Staff ensure that all areas of learning are provided for in the environment. However, they do not take all opportunities to encourage children to practice making marks or to write for a purpose during their play, to extend further their awareness that print carries meaning.

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

Children's well-being is highly valued. The effective key-person system ensures that children form close attachments to the adults which help them feel emotionally secure and happy. Children are confident, and happily speak to and welcome adults into their play. Children behave well and behaviour management techniques are applied consistently by the staff. As a result, children are aware of what is expected of them and play cooperatively. Children gain a good understanding of healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. They enjoy healthy snacks and staff remind them of good hygiene practices during the day. This helps children develop the skills they will need for their future learning and eventual move on to school.

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

Management and leadership of the nursery is good. They complete a rigorous, reflective approach to monitor and evaluate the provision. Staff complete training and cascade this to colleagues via staff meetings. Appraisals are carried out to support staff to identify the skills they need to ensure their teaching is consistently good. Effective safe recruitment procedures are in place. The management and staff all demonstrate a good knowledge of the safeguarding policies and procedures, and know what to do to keep children safe. Partnerships with other professionals are strong. The manager forms strong links with other early years settings children also attend, to promote continuity in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127700
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840697
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	The Oaks Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2010
Telephone number	01732 834401

The Oaks Nursery opened in 1994. It operates from a mobile unit in the grounds of Hildenborough Primary School near Tonbridge, Kent. The nursery accepts funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who are learning English as an additional language. The nursery is open each weekday from 8.30am to 3.30pm during term time only. There are six members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at Level 3. The nursery works closely with the adjoining primary school.

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