

The Beehive Montessori

Village Hall, Southwood Road, Shalden, ALTON, Hampshire, GU34 4DX



Inspection date

5 June 2015

Previous inspection date

3 November 2008

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 staff's exceptional in-depth knowledge of the children enables them to extensively promote their individual learning and development. Children benefit from an inspiring range of exciting activities and experiences that closely follow their own interests.
- The extremely knowledgeable staff make the best possible use of the planned and naturally occurring situations to extend children's learning. They use a wide range of questions and ensure children have time to think and respond. Consequently, children are motivated to become very active learners and to develop good thought processes.
- Children settle well in the caring and exceptionally supportive environment. They receive praise and encouragement at every opportunity to support their emotional well-being. They develop high levels of confidence and independence that allow them to eagerly play and explore.
- Overall, resources are extremely well-thought-out and used effectively to enrich children's learning, although the provision indoors is slightly more impressive than that outdoors. The pre-school managers and their team have developed excellent systems to keep children safe and secure.
- Staff make very effective use of well-written policies and procedures, and carry out rigorous risk assessments for all areas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance outdoor learning by providing an even greater range of accessible resources to support and challenge children's all-round development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and looked at relevant documentation such as a range of children's records, the pre-school's planning, evaluation and the information exchanged with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector reviewed documents and procedures relating to safeguarding, and checked a selection of other policies.

Inspector

Simon Hobbs

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is outstanding. Staff use their considerable knowledge and expertise to plan activities and experiences that focus on children's individual needs and interests. For example, based on discussions and suggestions by the children, staff have created a role play campsite. This is a popular activity and staff skilfully build on children's existing knowledge and experiences to extend their learning further. Children develop extremely good communication and language skills as staff encourage them to talk through their actions and thinking while learning. Staff work highly effectively with local schools to ensure the smooth transfer of children between settings. As a result, children display high levels of confidence and the continuity in learning is excellent. Comprehensive assessments of children's progress help staff develop children's strengths and swiftly identify and address any gaps in their learning. These are shared regularly with parents to encourage a shared approach to supporting children's learning between the pre-school and home.

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

Children develop extremely warm, nurturing relationships with the staff. As a result, they settle well and are able to make individual choices for themselves. Consequently, children rapidly gain the confidence and self-assurance needed for moving on to school. Children regularly play outside and benefit frequently from being in the fresh air where they have the opportunity to use a range of bicycles and large play equipment. This promotes their physical development and health extremely well. Children are very independent at lunchtime as they help themselves to their food and clear away when finished. Staff support children to learn how to have self-control by encouraging them to share and take turns. They inspire children to be respectful towards each other and constantly praise them when they achieve or try hard. Consequently, children's behaviour is exemplary.

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

The drive to improve outcomes for children is strongly embedded. Regular training for all staff means that they fully understand their roles and have the skills needed to fulfil them. For example, all staff are very knowledgeable about the procedures to safeguard children. The highly experienced staff frequently observe and assess children's achievements. As a result, there is a precise focus on children's progress, supporting them to achieve at the highest possible level. The staff team makes extensive use of self-evaluation to provide a clear drive for improvement that fully involves all staff and parents. Extremely close working with other agencies helps to ensure children's individual needs are closely monitored. Feedback from parents is extremely positive. They discuss the significant progress their children have made, particularly with their confidence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365468
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	828953
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	The Beehive Montessori Partnership
Date of previous inspection	3 November 2008
Telephone number	01420 542416

The Beehive Montessori registered in 2007. It is located in Shalden, near Alton in Hampshire. The pre-school follows the Montessori teaching philosophy. It is open during term time only, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am until 2.45pm, and on Thursday and Friday from 9am until 1pm. There are five members of staff, four of whom hold relevant qualifications between level 3 and level 5. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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