

The Acorn Nursery School

Cranleigh Infant School, Church Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8AR



Inspection date

29 June 2015

Previous inspection date

15 June 2011

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

- Children enjoy an extensive range of exciting and stimulating activities in a bright and interesting environment. They independently select resources that cover all areas of learning.
- Staff provide excellent support for children with additional needs. They monitor children's progress accurately and effectively. As a result, all children make extremely strong progress.
- All areas of learning are expertly promoted throughout the day. However, the opportunities for children to explore their understanding of emotions during their free play through use of resources, for example, are not always extensive.
- Staff work in excellent partnership with parents and successfully encourage them to provide information on their children's learning at home.
- Managers have robust recruitment procedures and they maintain staff suitability efficiently through regular meetings and appraisals.
- All staff have excellent knowledge of how to protect children and they actively ensure children's safety throughout the day. As a result, children feel safe to take and manage risks appropriate to their age. For example, children enjoy climbing trees and exploring their outdoor environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend further the opportunities for children to explore their understanding of emotions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector engaged with the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children's indoor and outdoor play, as well as their snack and hygiene routines.
- The inspector engaged in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled various relevant documents that included the nursery's risk assessments, a range of policies and procedures, staff recruitment records and children's learning journeys.

Inspector

Lauren Ferreira

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn. They use this knowledge to expertly question children to make them think of different answers. The key-person system is securely embedded and staff know the children very well. They plan and tailor activities to meet their individual needs and, as a result, children make excellent progress. Children actively learn about the world around them. They grow fruit in the garden and eat it for their snack. This helps children to understand the entire process of growing, from planting and watering the seeds to being able to eat the fruit that has grown. Staff provide excellent support for children moving to school. Children are highly independent and have developed all the skills needed for their move to school.

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

Staff use every opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles to excellent effect. Children talk about the effects of exercise on their bodies and the importance of drinking water and eating healthy food. They wear sun hats outdoors and engage in excellent hygiene routines. Staff provide an environment in which all families feel welcome. For example, families of different cultures come in to show the children examples of their traditional food and to read stories to them. Staff work in excellent partnership with other professionals to support children with additional needs. This helps to provide continuity of learning and care, and eases the children's move to other settings. Staff are good role models and, as a result, children are exceptionally well-behaved. Staff consistently develop children's confidence and self-esteem by praising and encouraging them in all they do.

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

The leadership and management of the nursery are excellent. The manager actively ensures that all policies and procedures are in place, up to date and understood by all staff. There is a targeted programme of professional development. Staff are highly enthused and go on many training courses that interest them. They share the information gained with the other members of staff and this is used to benefit the children. Staff are highly qualified and the manager ensures they use their strengths to provide the best support and learning experiences for the children. The manager monitors the children's learning journeys to ensure that staff are accurately assessing their learning and development. The manager has a strong drive to achieve and improve. All staff are involved in self-evaluating the provision and they highly value the views of parents and children. As a result, the self-evaluations are honest and accurate with relevant areas for improvement. The manager regularly observes staff practice, and staff regularly observe each other. This helps to ensure that good practice is shared and consistently maintained.

Setting details

Unique reference number	119925
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	825216
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Pauline Crowder
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	01483 271976

The Acorn Nursery School registered in 1994. It operates from within the grounds of Cranleigh Primary School Loweres, in the village of Cranleigh, Surrey. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four. The nursery is open five days a week, term time only, from 8.45am until 2.45pm at the latest. Finish times vary on different days. There are 11 members of staff, two of whom have Qualified Teacher Status and one who holds an Early Years Teacher qualification. All of the remaining staff hold relevant qualifications from level 2 to level 4.

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