

# The Athelstan Nursery

All Souls Church Hall, Athelstan Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5JE



## Inspection date

11 June 2015

## Previous inspection date

3 March 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The staff team has a good understanding of how children learn. This ensures they plan daily activities relevant to individual children's interests and needs. Therefore, children make good progress and are ready for school.
- Staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. The manager ensures that all staff have a good knowledge of policies and safe working practices to support children's health, safety and well-being.
- The manager ensures that staff have regular supervision and appraisal meetings. This enables staff to share their thoughts about their key children and identify any relevant training courses to further their professional development and support their practice.
- Staff provide a range of good-quality learning experiences for children both inside and outside. As a result, children are motivated and eager to explore.
- Qualified and experienced staff work as mentors to those less qualified and provide good role models. This has a positive impact on the quality of interaction and teaching which supports children's learning and well-being.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always able to independently access resources to extend their understanding of technology.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the availability and use of resources in the nursery that enable children to learn about technology.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside as well as outside.
- The Inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the manager of the provision.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision and a range of other documentation.

## Inspector

Anna Fisk

## Inspection findings

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

Staff use their good knowledge of how children learn to provide an interesting range of learning opportunities. Children initiate many activities themselves which are well supported by staff's timely interventions. Children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted time to play and explore as they learn. For example, children use paper and mark making resources to create crowns. They extend this by planning an imaginary birthday party and explore the environment looking for resources to use as presents and to support their play. As a result, children are engaged and focussed on their chosen activities. Planning and assessment arrangements are precise and shared frequently with all staff and parents to ensure children make good progress. For example, starting points are written in conjunction with parents and children's ongoing development is discussed at regular staff meetings when children's assessments are checked. This enables staff to plan activities which interest and engage children in their learning and helps to prepare them for their move to school. Children experience challenging activities which are designed to ensure both boys and girls' needs are met.

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

The key-person system enables children to quickly form good relationships with staff and settle easily. Staff are good role models and play alongside children helping them learn to take turns and understand acceptable behaviour. Therefore, children learn to behave well. Staff provide children with healthy snacks and meals, which supports their good health and well-being. Staff ensure that children play outside daily. This enables children to develop their physical skills and enjoy being in the fresh air. Staff work consistently to ensure children are included, for example, the mornings greeting time is an extremely positive experience for all children, especially those with dual language needs.

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

The manager has robust recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff are qualified and suitable to be working with children. Effective partnerships with outside agencies are extensive and ensure children's needs are quickly supported by a consistent team of professionals. Analysis of assessment information means that potential learning needs are quickly identified and the effectiveness of areas of provision are monitored to ensure consistent levels of interest are maintained. The manager's self-evaluation identifies how the nursery can improve further. Parents' views are listened to and decisions are made as a group around changes. For example, the recent changes to the garden were influenced by the children's ideas and the parents' suggestions were considered. The manager has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	109320
<b>Local authority</b>	East Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	839585
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	36
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	74
<b>Name of provider</b>	The Athelstan Nursery Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	3 March 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01424 446105

Athelstan Nursery opened in 1978 and is run by a committee made up of parents. It operates from a large church hall in Hastings. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 3.30pm during term time. The nursery provides funded early education for some children aged two, and for three- and four-year-olds. Of the nine staff who work at the nursery, eight hold relevant qualifications from level 2 to level 6. In addition, the manager holds Early Years Professional Status.

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