

# Maplehurst Nursery

The Ridge, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2AA



## Inspection date

9 July 2015

## Previous inspection date

28 March 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- Children thrive and learn through enjoyment as staff provide an excellent range of stimulating and spontaneous play opportunities. This means that all children are enthusiastic and active learners who make good or exceptional progress as they explore the world around them.
- Staff have exemplary knowledge of the children and have excellent relationships with them. They quickly identify their changing needs and respond to them sensitively during play, learning and care activities. As a result, children are emotionally secure, settled and confident to interact.
- Staff have a thorough understanding of the rigorous safeguarding procedures. They have an excellent knowledge of how to protect children and identify when children could be at potential risk. They are alert to any concerns and consistently respond to any child protection issues, including any allegations against members of staff.
- Parents benefit from excellent partnerships with management and staff. They are welcomed into the nursery and fully involved in their child's learning and care. As a result, parents speak freely with staff and are able to work closely with them to provide continuity of care in positive learning environments.
- The management team shows drive and dedication to make continual improvements. They rigorously monitor staff, children and daily provision to identify any changes to raise standards for children.

## 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 alternative ways for children and staff to communicate to further strengthen all relationships within the setting.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed children interacting with staff and engaging in activities inside the nursery and in the outside play area.
- The inspector sampled children's records, including learning assessments, and spoke with some key persons.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider and the manager, completed a joint observation and spoke to staff.
- The inspector checked records of safeguarding practices, staff recruitment, ongoing professional development and self-evaluation arrangements.

## Inspector

Anna Kersley

## Inspection findings

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

Staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of the requirements and implement them with passion and enthusiasm. They use their outstanding knowledge of how children learn through their interests to plan exciting activities. This means children continually develop new ideas and skills, preparing them exceptionally well for school. For example, children show interest in a rhyming story. Staff stimulate their excitement by introducing different ways that children can explore the story by making their own props, acting out scenes during play and reciting key phrases together. This demonstrates that staff have high expectations of children and that they allow them to make choices about how they explore the world around them and to promote their physical well-being. These high-quality experiences help children to develop confidence and creativity. Children benefit immensely from staff interactions which motivate them to be active learners. These include a range of methods introduced to strengthen communication, such as signing. However, not all staff consistently use these with all children to further nurture children's interactions and relationships.

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

Staff implement a highly effective key-person system so that children and their families have a familiar point of contact. This helps children to settle quickly and grow in confidence. It also enables the free flow of information between staff and parents to support children's ongoing development. Staff are extremely positive role models and set consistent expectations of children so that they learn how to develop social skills and interact with others. Staff encourage children to develop self-care and skills for independence as they look after their own personal care needs. This helps children to develop very good personal routines. Parents report a great level of confidence in the staff and describe the ways they support children's development to continue at home.

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

The management and leadership team understand and fully implement the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Children enjoy the benefits of an inclusive nursery where staff are committed to working alongside other professionals to meet every child's individual needs. The manager creates exemplary links with other settings to ensure children experience a smooth move to their next stage in learning, such as school. She supports the highly qualified staff to maintain and raise standards at the setting through excellent reflective practice, supervision and staff meetings and training opportunities. As a result, all children receive outstanding care in an exciting and nurturing learning environment.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	109298
<b>Local authority</b>	East Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	839581
<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>	32
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	71
<b>Name of provider</b>	East Sussex County Council
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	28 March 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01424 202262

Maplehurst Nursery opened in 1990. It is located in the grounds of Sandown School, on the outskirts of Hastings, near Ore Village. Children aged three and four years receive free early education, as do some two-year-olds. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 4pm for 38 weeks of the year. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The nursery employs eight members of staff, most of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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