

Heather Rabbit Nursery

Heather Row Cottage, Heather Row, Nately Scures, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9JP



Inspection date

9 July 2015

Previous inspection date

10 May 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

- The achievement of all children is outstanding. Regardless of starting points or any barriers to learning, each child receives the care and support they need to make excellent progress. Ongoing checks mean that everyone is challenged to move on in their learning when ready.
- Children play extremely well together and show exemplary attitudes to learning. Their behaviour is excellent. Whether they are working with an adult or by themselves, they sustain their interest for long periods of time because they are motivated to learn.
- The vibrant and exciting areas indoors and outside stimulate the children's interest and imagination. Excellent use is made of the various areas of the garden, the nearby woodlands and nearby common land to stimulate an interest in the environment.
- Staff make excellent use of their accurate assessments of children's progress to set them work which enables children to do their best. They make frequent and detailed observations of children's learning, and gather information from parents and carers to reinforce these assessments. There are close partnerships with parents, carers and other early years settings, which hold staff in high regard.
- Leaders' awareness of the nursery's strengths and weaknesses is accurate, and they regularly check on the quality of teaching and learning. The rigorous procedures for checking staff performance are matched by extensive opportunities for training and, as a result, the staff are highly qualified and extremely knowledgeable.
- Staff provide a warm and welcoming place for children to begin their learning journey. The well-organised indoor and outdoor spaces stimulate children's curiosity and imagination, leaving them eager to learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the organisation of some whole group activities to reduce the time children sit waiting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, evidence of the staff suitability and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents, children and the staff team.

Inspector

Melissa Cox

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an extensive knowledge of how young children learn and an excellent awareness of each child's individual needs. They use these well to provide interesting and challenging activities that provide the right level of difficulty for all ability groups. Staff promote children's awareness that print carries meaning extremely well. As a result, children love looking at books, listening to stories attentively and enjoy retelling them to an adult or to other children. Some clearly demonstrate their growing knowledge of letters and the sounds they make, and write a few simple words unaided. Children make excellent progress in developing their personal and social skills. This lays a firm foundation for their future learning. For example, they listen very attentively to staff and to each other, and follow instructions carefully. They make decisions about their work and play, and stick at activities until they are completed. They work together very well, share ideas and support each other kindly.

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

Children learn physical skills exceptionally well. They use the outdoor play areas, slopes and trees in the 'forest school', where it is safe for them to do so. Children learn to take small risks and work out how to keep themselves and others safe. For example, they learn to wait on the large outdoor equipment until others have completed their climb before starting themselves. Adults are particularly effective in encouraging less confident children to join in activities and develop their self-esteem. Praise is used widely to encourage the children to try harder and persevere with what they are doing. The daily routine provides security and stability for the children. Children's personal independence and self-care skills are actively encouraged by staff for the majority of the session; however, this is not as well promoted at snack time when children sit waiting for staff to serve their snack.

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

The staff team has considerable knowledge and expertise, and share an energetic drive for continuous improvement. Staff work extremely well together, making the most of their strengths and experience. All staff are involved in the planning and monitoring of learning so their expectations are consistently high, and activities challenge all children to do their best. An extensive programme of whole-staff training, linked to actions in the improvement plan, ensures that skills are continually updated and improved. Children have widespread opportunities for voicing their opinions and these are used to inform self-evaluation. For example, they use digital cameras to record videos of what they love about their nursery to share with others. Overall, the careful reflection of what works well and what could be improved is key to the nursery's sustained outstanding development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507849
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	826188
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Rosemary Ward
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2011
Telephone number	01256 763227

Heather Rabbit Nursery opened in 1985. It is located in a quiet, rural location in Nately Scures, near Hook, Hampshire. It is open each weekday during term time only, offering morning and afternoon sessions and a lunch club. The nursery employs 12 full- and part-time staff, including a member of staff who is qualified to deliver outdoor Forest School skills. There is one member of staff with Early Years Professional Status, two with Qualified Teacher Status and seven with qualifications between level 2 and level 3.

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