

Ascot Nursery School

1 Arundel Cottage, High Street, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7JJ



Inspection date

16 July 2015

Previous inspection date

6 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a stimulating and well-resourced learning environment both indoors and outside. As a result, most children make progress in the key areas of communication and language, physical and social development.
- Children behave well; they are proactive in helping the staff to keep the environment tidy and safe.
- Staff teach children good personal hygiene practices; for example, the importance of washing their hands before eating.
- There are good partnerships with parents and other professionals to help staff meet all children's needs. As a result, children achieve their full potential.
- Staff promote children's safety and well-being through comprehensive and consistently applied risk assessments. This ensures children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Management dedicates time to supporting the professional development of staff and provides individual meetings. However, staff supervision systems are not fully effective, as management does not record observations consistently, to identify the next steps in improving their already effective practice and outcomes for children.
- Management oversees the good teaching strategies. However, its monitoring of children's progress is not fully effective. It does not always measure progress for groups of children or individual children accurately, to make sure that any gaps in learning are closing quickly.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve staff supervision systems to record staff performance and next steps for them to improve practice and outcomes for children
- strengthen the overall monitoring of children's progress to ensure their development is measured more precisely and any gaps in learning are closing quickly.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in all playrooms and the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector toured the premises and checked risk assessment procedures.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including children's records, planning documentation, policies and procedures.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with some children, staff and parents, and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tanisha Hodge

Inspection findings

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

Staff interaction with children is of a good standard. Children enjoy outdoor play and engage well with the stimulating resources which support their learning. Staff plan interesting activities to cover all areas of learning extremely well; for example, outdoors, children role play a cake sale with each other and staff at the mud kitchen. Overall, there is a very strong emphasis on developing children's communication and language skills, and the quality of teaching and learning is very good. For example, older children demonstrate their competent levels of confidence in talking in front of the group during registration. Staff support children learning English as an additional language by verbalising what they are doing so they can hear clear, spoken English. Staff encourage parents to support children's learning at home well. Parents say staff are welcoming and share their children's progress with them. They express a deep appreciation of how their children develop skills for their move to school.

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

Parents are extremely well informed and involved in all aspects of their children's care and development. All staff have an excellent knowledge of every child's needs and interests. Consequently, they meet all children's emotional and physical needs exceptionally well. Children behave extremely well and know what staff expect of them. This is because staff apply boundaries sensitively across the nursery. Children benefit from healthy snacks, which are prepared on the premises. Staff consistently talk to children about being healthy and the need to drink water regularly. Older children develop excellent independence and a willingness to help. For example, they pour their own cups of water and offer others a cup of water too. Outdoor learning provides exceptional support for children. For example, they enjoy physical play with the exciting range of resources and activities available.

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

The management and the staff team demonstrate their full understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Management has effective, safe recruitment procedures that ensure the suitability of staff. It has addressed previous recommendations well to have a positive impact on children's learning and development. Management gathers the views of staff, parents and children to inform the self-evaluation. This means that everyone contributes to the process to identify strengths and areas to strengthen practice further. Staff recently attended an emotional well-being practitioner training course, which has already increased staff vigilance of safeguarding issues and children's well-being is of a higher standard. Staff are well qualified and knowledgeable about how children learn, which has a positive impact on children's outcomes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	108379
Local authority	Windsor & Maidenhead
Inspection number	839537
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Pat Evitt
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2011
Telephone number	01344 878431 01344 625539

Ascot Nursery School registered in 1972. It is a privately owned setting and operates from a house within the grounds of Ascot racecourse in Berkshire. The nursery opens five days a week during term time, apart from Ascot race days. Sessions are from 9am to 12.30pm on Monday to Friday, and from 1pm to 4.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday. A lunch club operates on Tuesday and Thursday. A holiday club is held from 9am to 4pm on Tuesday and Thursday during some school holidays. The nursery school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. It supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. There are nine members of staff; one has an early years degree and six hold early years qualifications to level 3.

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