

The Lavender Lodge Montessori nursery

St Johns Park Lodge, Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8HQ



Inspection date

21 July 2015

Previous inspection date

21 January 2010

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 quality of teaching across the nursery is outstanding because staff have an in-depth understanding of how children learn. As a result, all children make excellent progress in their learning.
- Children are able to make choices about where they play and what they learn. This means that children get deeply involved in activities and are highly motivated to learn.
- Parents are completely involved in their children's learning and there are excellent relationships between the staff and families. Parents and staff share information about children's learning at home and at nursery. This shared approach helps children to make excellent progress.
- Staff teach children to be extremely independent. They organise their time and look after their personal needs. As a result, children are exceptionally confident and self-assured.
- Staff constantly strive to improve and have made numerous changes that have had an extremely positive impact on children's learning.
- The nursery environment is safe for children. The managers and staff have a detailed knowledge of what to do if they have child protection concerns. They follow a thorough safeguarding policy.
- The manager is an exemplary role-model for her staff and leads the team with enthusiasm and skill. A team of senior managers support her very well and oversee the quality of care provided across their small nursery chain.
- Staff prepare children exceptionally well for their move to school, and leave with the skills that they will need for their next stage of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make sure children can independently access resources of their choice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing independently and taking part in planned activities.
- The inspector spoke to parents, to find out about their experiences of the nursery.
- The inspector examined various policies and documents.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and spoke to staff about teaching, learning, training and safeguarding.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Catherine Reeves

Inspection findings

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

The children make excellent progress across all areas of learning because staff plan interesting and highly stimulating activities. Staff make detailed observations of children and use these to plan experiences that build on children's interests or learning needs. For instance, to prepare children for their first trips to the dentist staff shared a large set of teeth. Children brush their teeth while staff talked to them about dentists and the importance of clean teeth. Staff are enthusiastic and join children in their play to support their learning. For instance, one staff member enthusiastically joined children who were acting out a favourite story, using the picture book to help them remember the story. The staff team are well qualified and so know how to support the children in the most effective ways.

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

The staff organise a stimulating environment. They use display boards to show children's work, which provides them with a sense of pride. Children explore activities and staff ensure they cater for all children's different learning styles. However, some of the indoor resources are not easy for children to see and choose. Children get lots of chances to explore the natural world, for example planting, growing and harvesting fruit and vegetables. A strong key-person system means that children know who to turn to when they need help and support. Children's emotional and physical needs are extremely well-met by their key person and they have strong relationships with all staff. Staff know what to do when concerned about a child, which keeps children safe. Staff carry out regular evacuation drills so that they and the children know what to do in an emergency.

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

The manager has an in-depth knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and supports her team exceptionally well. She carefully monitors activity-planning, teaching and learning, so all children, across the age ranges, make excellent progress. The manager supports staff to identify any children who may have additional needs and obtains extra support for them. This means that these children also make excellent progress. The management team meet regularly to discuss the nursery and to plan improvements. They consult with staff and parents when deciding their improvement plan. As a result, they have made changes, which have had a real impact on the children's learning. The manager meets regularly with her staff team and provides supervision, training and support. The regular training that staff receive, as well as the observations they do on each other, has a positive impact on teaching and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY274018
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	826730
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Carol Anne Benson
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2010
Telephone number	01444 253522

The Lavender Lodge Montessori Nursery is in Burgess Hill, West Sussex and registered in 2004. It is one of five privately owned settings. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The Lavender Lodge follows the Montessori approach to education and is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs ten staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years childcare qualifications.

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