

The Strawberry Patch

Becketts Farm, Hempstead, Norfolk, NR25 6LB



Inspection date

7 August 2015

Previous inspection date

11 January 2011

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children make excellent progress in their learning and development in a welcoming and highly stimulating environment. Both indoors and outside are fully equipped to provide challenging and worthwhile experiences in all areas of learning.
- The teaching provided is consistently high in quality. Staff understand exceptionally well how children learn. They meticulously plan activities for each individual child to reflect the child's developmental needs.
- Parents are fully included at every stage of their child's attendance. They are informed of their child's progress and have superb information about what children do at nursery and how they can continue the learning at home.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of the importance of safeguarding children. They actively promote children's safety and well-being throughout the day.
- The key-person system is clearly embedded and staff share loving and caring relationships with the children. Children are confident to communicate their feelings and needs.
- Staff expertly support children with additional needs by working in meaningful partnerships with other professionals. As a result, children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well cared for and their learning is effectively promoted and monitored.
- The manager and staff are passionate and share a vision for the continued development of the Nursery. They strive to maintain the highest standards of care and learning for every child attending.
- Children due to move on to school benefit from a well-planned programme of visits and other activities. This helps to familiarise them with the school environment and some of the routines they will encounter.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance ways to extend children's free and independent access to books while outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children throughout the day.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with a member of staff.
- The inspector observed indoor and outdoor learning and play activities.
- The inspector observed children's snack and indoor lunch routines.
- The inspector sampled a variety of documents, including relevant risk assessments, policies and procedures, children's learning journeys and staff recruitment documents.

Inspector

Beverley Devlin

Inspection findings

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

Staff expertly support children's learning. They have an accurate understanding of when to intervene to promote learning and when to let children explore independently. As a result, children choose to engage in their own choice of wonderful activities that promote learning in all areas. There is a wide range of resources for children to choose both inside and outdoors. Children have access to an excellent selection of books indoors. The outdoor environment includes enchanting spaces for thematic storytelling. Opportunities for children to access books independently in this area are not maximised. Children actively explore the environment and show an exceptional understanding of nature. For example, children search for vegetables and fruit, discussing how they grow and can be cooked for their consumption later. Staff actively promote positive images of culture and diversity. Staff use every opportunity to promote and extend learning. As a result, children make excellent progress.

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

Children develop very effective, caring and warm emotional bonds with staff, and firm friendships with one another. This ensures their sense of belonging and inspires confidence so they can be independent and in control of their own learning. Children celebrate their birthdays with their friends and the staff, sharing treats at snack time. This helps to support their rapidly developing self-esteem. Children's behaviour is exemplary because they learn that their actions impact on others' feelings. Children demonstrate their developing independence as they complete self-care tasks, such as hand washing and clearing away after lunch. They experience challenge in the safe yet exciting, fabulously resourced learning environment. Outdoors, children have the freedom to run and move and find out their own limits as they explore the equipment and space. Good health is promoted as children are offered highly nutritious food and drinks which are available to them throughout the sessions.

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

The ambitious provider, who also manages the nursery, inspires staff to enthusiastically engage with the children. Staff are encouraged to pursue qualifications and attend regular training to ensure that they have a full awareness of any recent research into childcare practice. This benefits the outcomes for children and results in staff accurately monitoring children's progress. By evaluating all aspects of every session, staff plan the next steps in learning for their key children. The management team also takes into consideration the views of staff and children when evaluating the service offered. As a result, improvements are continual. The parents are happy and children benefit from high-quality provision. Management expertly uses the qualifications, skills and knowledge of staff to give them specific areas of responsibility in the nursery to plan, such as music and dance. As a result, children benefit from highly skilled and passionate staff who plan exciting and challenging learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY245165
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	860233
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	89
Name of provider	The Strawberry Patch Ltd
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2011
Telephone number	01263 711229

The Strawberry Patch was registered in 2003. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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