

Lavender Hall Kindergarten

The Gattinetts, Hadleigh Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6QT



Inspection date

3 September 2015

Previous inspection date

8 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have a good knowledge of how children learn. They use this to provide a wide range of exciting and stimulating activities that promote children's development well. As a result, all children make good progress.
- Children form warm, caring bonds with their key person, other staff and each other. Staff provide a well-resourced and welcoming environment where the children feel safe, happy and are confident to access resources and toys independently.
- The management team are passionate and committed to improving outcomes for the children. They promote a positive working environment where staff work well together and are supported to access further training to improve their knowledge and skills.
- Staff form successful relationships with parents. They regularly update them on their children's progress. Parents are well informed and effectively extend their children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always consider how children with different capabilities can all be fully involved when taking part in activities together.
- The management's checking of staff practice is not always sharply focused enough to achieve and maintain the highest level of teaching.

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 group activities, so the learning needs of all children taking part are fully considered, to extend further the good progress they are making in their development
- strengthen the monitoring of staff's practice to further improve the quality of teaching to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed the joint observation with one of the senior kindergarten managers.
- The inspector spoke to staff and held a meeting with the kindergarten managers and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, including the kindergarten's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the kindergarten.
- The inspector spoke to a large selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Daniella Tyler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The well-qualified staff and the experienced management team have a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and implement them well. Safeguarding is effective as staff know how to protect children from harm. Policies and procedures reflect current guidance and are robust. The management evaluate the kindergarten well. They regularly obtain the views of parents, children, staff and other professionals and set challenging but achievable targets for improvement. The management effectively oversee all children's progress. Any gaps in learning are promptly identified and swiftly addressed to ensure that all children continue to make good progress. The management check staff's assessments and planning for children to ensure they are accurate. However, they are less focused on observing and evaluating the quality of teaching in order to raise the level of practice even higher. Staff form successful relationships with schools and other early years settings. They share a good amount of information to provide consistency for the children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff get to know the children well through regular observations and accurate assessments of their capabilities. They use this information to plan exciting and stimulating activities that are tailored to the children's individual enthusiasms and interests. As a result, all children make good progress. However, staff sometimes focus on one age group of children during some larger group activities. They do not always adapt the activities to the highest level to fully involve all children in the group.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have many opportunities for physical exercise and access to fresh air. They play in the garden daily and attend outings to places, such as the forest and farms, with staff. Children develop good levels of independence as they are encouraged to help set up activities and attend to their own care needs. Staff provide children with healthy snacks and advise parents of healthy food choices for lunchboxes. They encourage children to have a positive attitude towards healthy eating. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They set clear boundaries and gently remind the children of these throughout the day. Staff encourage children to be aware of people's feelings and to show care and concern for each other. Children develop good social skills and staff praise them regularly for their achievements.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well-prepared for the next stage in their learning, including the move on to school. All children make good progress given their starting points and capabilities. Children develop good physical and mathematical skills that prepare them for learning to write, count and recognise colours. Staff engage children in conversations and add new words into their vocabulary to support their communication and language development. They ask children purposeful questions that promote their critical-thinking skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251765
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	854790
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	86
Name of provider	Andrea Clare Lewison
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2010
Telephone number	01206 299511

Lavender Hall Kindergarten was registered in 1998 and is one of two kindergartens that are privately owned and managed. The kindergarten employs 10 members of childcare staff all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2, 3 or 4. It also employs four administrators. The kindergarten opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The kindergarten provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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