

Little Cottage

27a Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9SD



Inspection date

15 October 2015

Previous inspection date

19 July 2011

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The owner of the nursery has the role of manager and is highly effective in continually improving the service offered to the children and families.
- The quality of the teaching is outstanding, allowing children to flourish. High-quality learning experiences are provided for the children by highly qualified staff. There is a strong commitment from the manager, which is shared by all practitioners, to ensure that every child makes good progress.
- The key-person system is used very effectively to ensure children are supported as individuals. Overall, partnerships with parents are extremely effective. Work is taking place to strengthen these further to provide the best possible support for parents to extend their child's learning at home.
- Children are highly motivated, interested in their learning and make good progress. This means that when they leave the setting they are well prepared for their next stage of education.
- Children's well-being and welfare are a high priority. Children are extremely confident and considerate of each other.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue working with parents to enhance further the strong support to help them build on their child's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector met with the manager to look at documentation and discuss self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke with parents to listen to their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lynn Grinsell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and provides a fun curriculum that meets the needs of all the children. Safeguarding is effective. There are robust recruitment arrangements to determine the suitability of all staff. The strong commitment to training and careful monitoring of the quality of teaching, ensure consistently high standards. Accurate and thorough self-evaluation enables the manager and staff team to identify specific areas where there is room for improvement. They are prompt to take carefully targeted action to ensure that the provision is continually evolving. For example, there has recently been a very successful focus on promoting children's social skills and understanding of the lives and needs of others.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

All practitioners have high expectations of each child. Children's learning is planned for by their key person, who uses their in-depth knowledge to ensure each child is given an outstanding range of challenging opportunities. Practitioners have a secure knowledge of the age group they are working with. Children are given time to play and experiment. They remain focused and engaged, showing very high levels of concentration. The superb planning and assessment processes ensure that the practitioners know the progress the children are making and enable them to identify where interventions are needed. All children are making good progress and are well prepared for their move to school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children show high levels of confidence. The excellent key-person arrangements and effective communication with parents help to ensure that children's individual care needs are exceptionally well met. Positive behaviour and good manners feature very highly and children show respect for each other in their daily activities. Superb standards of care and a highly flexible settling-in procedure support children to feel safe and secure.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make consistently high rates of progress in all areas of learning in the warm, cosy environment. They progress at their own pace and have excellent opportunities to develop their own ideas. For example, they make excellent use of the creative room to choose their own way to do things. This helps them to become independent learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414513
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	822620
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	13
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Sarah Jane Semmens
Date of previous inspection	19 July 2011
Telephone number	01892511187

Little Cottage nursery registered in 2011 and operates from Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The nursery operates for 38 weeks of the year and is open from 8am to 4.30pm each weekday. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged three and four years. A team of six members of staff work at the nursery. Of these, two hold Qualified Teacher Status and two hold relevant qualifications at level 3.

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