

Orchard Barns Kindergarten

Badliss Hall, Bromley Road, Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex, CO7 7LX



Inspection date

19 October 2015

Previous inspection date

31 March 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

- Management and staff share a relentless vision and drive to constantly improve. They actively seek the views of everyone involved with the children in their care, and use these to build upon their already excellent education and care practices.
- Safeguarding is high priority in this nursery. Excellent training and mentoring ensures that all staff have first-rate knowledge of how to protect children from harm.
- The quality of teaching is consistently strong. Staff plan exciting and challenging activities that stimulate children's creativity and imaginations. Consequently, children are inquisitive and extremely enthusiastic in their learning.
- Children's emotional well-being is central to this nursery. Staff form exemplary relationships with children, and parents comment that this extends to the child's whole family.
- Children spend lots of time with their siblings in nursery and parents are actively involved in all aspects of their child's care and learning. This contributes to the high levels of confidence and sense of security of the children who attend.
- All children make excellent progress in their learning. High-quality assessments ensure that staff have excellent knowledge of every child's learning needs, and they plan efficiently to support children to make the best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- exploit even more opportunities for children to complete tasks for themselves, so that their already excellent independence skills can be raised to even higher levels.

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 a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Clare Wilkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager has high expectations of every member of staff. An excellent programme of support and targeted professional development ensures that staff, although already well qualified, continue to develop their knowledge and skills. Consequently, the quality of teaching and learning is consistently high and constantly improving. The manager and staff scrutinise all areas of practice to maintain the excellent provision and identify ways to develop it further. The manager has an excellent knowledge of all legal requirements and meets these in full. The arrangements for safeguarding are highly effective. The manager promotes a highly inclusive and supportive environment, where everyone feels welcome, respected and valued.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have expert knowledge of how children learn. Assessments and planning for children's learning are meticulous. Staff have high expectations of all children, and plan activities that are tailored exceptionally well to their individual needs and interests. Children are highly motivated and engaged in stimulating activities that they clearly enjoy. For example, they delight in building imaginary campfires from logs and leaves, and pretend to cook food above the 'fire'. Staff use innovative ways to effectively engage parents and to support learning at home. For instance, parents and children enjoy sharing books at home when they borrow a 'talking tent' from nursery. There is an outstanding focus on children's developing communication and language skills. This contributes to excellent rates of progress in this area of learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff morale is very high, which contributes to the wonderfully welcoming and happy atmosphere, in which the children thrive. The rooms and outdoor areas are very well planned and extremely inviting. Children have access to a vast range of high-quality resources which support their development across all areas of learning. Staff demonstrate high levels of respect and courtesy to each other and the children. This helps children to learn how to build relationships and understand the needs of others. Consequently, their behaviour is exceptionally good. Children learn how to keep themselves safe and healthy, because staff explain their robust procedures to children and lead by example. Highly effective key-person systems ensure children are extremely well-supported emotionally as they move through the rooms in the nursery, and eventually for their move to school.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Almost all children are working at, or above, the range of development typical for their age and many are exceeding expectations. All children make excellent progress from their individual starting points. Targeted teaching ensures children have useful skills to give them an excellent start when they move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	650110
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	848088
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	112
Name of provider	Anita Claire Huckle
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2011
Telephone number	01206 231195

Orchard Barns Kindergarten was registered in 1995. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level three or above. 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.

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