

# Orchard Barns

6 Higham Road, Stratford St. Mary, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6JU



## Inspection date

26 January 2016

Previous inspection date

22 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

- The inspiring management team constantly reflects on practice and is extremely successful at driving improvements forward. The owners expertly oversee the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. They set high standards and ensure children receive exemplary care and learning experiences.
- All children are extremely eager to explore and try new things. They make rapid progress and develop a real thirst for learning. Teaching is consistently outstanding. The highly qualified staff are exceptional in their approach. They provide rich, varied and imaginative experiences, based on children's interests and learning priorities.
- Children form highly secure, emotional attachments with staff. There is an extremely effective key-person system and settling-in procedure. Staff enthusiastically use every interaction as an opportunity to build relationships and develop children's understanding and use of language.
- Staff strongly promote outdoor learning and have high expectations of what children can achieve. Children have excellent opportunities to experience physical challenges and manage risks for themselves using outdoor apparatus. They also concentrate, experiment and investigate as they play in tranquil surroundings.
- Partnerships with parents are exceedingly good. Parents are extremely well informed about their children's achievements. Wide ranging and innovative methods are successfully used to engage them in their children's learning, both in the nursery and at home.
- Staff work extremely well with other professionals and the local school. These partnerships are used very effectively to prepare children for starting school, and for supporting the older children who attend the out-of-school provision.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- introduce even more new and exciting ideas into the already excellent setting, to further extend children's understanding of the world.

### 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 accompanied staff and children on an outing to the nearby woodland area.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the nursery management, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the nursery.

### Inspector

Patricia Champion

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

The management team is extremely proactive in reviewing the quality of the provision. There are extensive action plans and monitoring systems in place. The ongoing suitability of staff is constantly addressed through regular appraisals, supervision meetings and monitoring observations of their performance. All staff demonstrate high levels of enthusiasm and a professional outlook, with strong teamwork underpinning their approach. Staff also constantly research and attend training events to broaden and improve their practice and keep updated on current childcare trends. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff's knowledge of safeguarding and keeping children safe is exemplary. This supports children's well-being and welfare exceptionally well. Thorough risk assessment and daily safety checks are completed in all areas used by children, to ensure that potential hazards are successfully minimised. Staff are extremely committed to establishing strong links with the community. This includes working collaboratively with the local authority to support children and their families in the area. The nursery uses additional funding wisely to help children gain confidence, participate and develop social skills.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

Staff know the children extremely well. There is an excellent approach to assessing children's development. This is applied to the whole group, key groups and individual children, to enable staff to meticulously plan for their learning needs. The staff successfully offer exciting outdoor activities. Children particularly enjoy their time visiting the nearby woodland area, exploring natural resources and extending their knowledge and skills. To improve further, the nursery is looking at more ways to accelerate learning and continually introduce children to new and exciting activities and play materials that promote their understanding of the world. All parents spoken to express their delight with the progress their children have made. They commend the efforts of the staff team and say they really feel involved with their children's learning.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

Children show excellent levels of independence and confidence for their age. They show immense pride when their achievements are celebrated and explained to other children and their parents. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They treat each other with respect and share resources especially well. Their health is successfully promoted. One way this is done is through well-practised routines that become good habits. Mealtimes are organised to provide a family-style environment, with small groups and close adult support. Children have hearty appetites and enjoy the hot, nutritious food at lunchtime. Parents see the menu each day and staff are knowledgeable about special dietary requirements.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

All children, including those who receive additional funding, make rapid progress in their learning from their starting points. Children show very high levels of involvement and concentration as they play. They are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in learning.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	251739
<b>Local authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Inspection number</b>	854789
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 11
<b>Total number of places</b>	38
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	22
<b>Name of provider</b>	Orchard Barns Partnership
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 March 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01206 323093

Orchard Barns was registered in 2000. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff hold a qualification at level 4, one at level 5, one has an early years degree at level 6, and one has Early Years Professional status. Specialist teachers for French, dance and yoga also work with the children. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 49 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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