

Old Rectory Day Nursery

The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Little Billing, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN3 9AF



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

2 February 2016

23 June 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 excellent support that staff receive reinforces their confidence in using exemplary teaching techniques. Children enjoy an exciting variety of activities and are animated and enthusiastic learners. They make excellent progress and are exceptionally well prepared for school.
- Staff offer exceptional support to disabled children and those with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language. They truly strive to help children achieve, using individualised resources and innovative activities to support this.
- Exceptionally rigorous monitoring procedures enable staff to quickly note and immediately address any weaker areas of children's learning. They have introduced additional activities to support younger children in speaking.
- Parents report that they appreciate the excellent communication. They attend information sessions on practical topics, such as the purpose of additional funding. They also receive frequent planning updates, which offer ideas that help them extend their children's learning.
- Staff use creative activities to support children in understanding and appreciating differences in each other and wider society. For example, children talk about their preferences and favourites. They make their own illustrations of who lives in their home and draw family trees. They compare these and note the similarities and differences.
- All staff use their childcare qualifications exceptionally well to offer children the very best care. Staff make practical use of any new knowledge from training. They have introduced additional creative resources and activities that support children in developing their communication skills and in understanding how to interact appropriately.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- exploit the opportunities for younger children to access even more resources that support them in exploring the natural 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. She completed joint observations with the manager and the deputy manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, the administrator, a company director and the special educational needs coordinator.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff. She spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views. She also viewed written feedback from parents.

Inspector

Kelly Eyre

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager, administrative officer and all staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities and work in partnership to maintain the highest standards. The dedicated manager continues to build on her qualifications. She uses these and her experience to model excellent practice and to offer staff highly practical supervision. The comprehensive self-evaluation enables staff to precisely identify areas to develop even more. They have recognised the potential to offer the youngest children even more resources that support them in exploring the natural world. Staff maintain excellent partnerships with other childcare settings, ensuring that children's transitions are seamless. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust systems ensure that all staff are suitable. Comprehensive procedures ensure that all areas and incidents are thoroughly assessed and any risks immediately minimised or removed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff consider every possible way of extending children's learning. For example, children enjoy a book about a whale and enjoy making the whoosh sound as the whale spurts water. They experiment with everyday substances to recreate this sound. Highly skilled staff make excellent use of daily routines as a way of building on children's knowledge. During group time a staff member tells a favourite story without the use of a book or props. The children are totally captivated by her expressions and exceptional use of questions that encourage creative thinking. They eagerly join in, anticipating and developing the storyline. Activities such as this significantly contribute towards the development of children's problem solving and communication skills. Staff ensure that every area of the nursery offers children stimulating learning opportunities. Younger children are excited as they explore a role-play camp site. The development of their mathematical skills and their understanding of the world are supported as they use torches, count food tins and explore what they know about woodland animals.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The excellent partnerships with parents enable staff to fully discuss and understand children's physical and emotional needs. Staff's comprehensive understanding supports children in feeling secure and settled. They quickly build warm relationships with staff. Children enjoy frequent opportunities to review their learning journals, helping them to understand how they have been learning and to celebrate their progress. These thoughtful procedures boost children's confidence and enable them to build the emotional resilience and highly positive attitudes that support their learning. Children gain an exceptional understanding of healthy lifestyles. They help to plan the weekly menus, carefully considering the importance of a balanced diet.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Skilled staff create a highly positive environment so that children rapidly develop the skills that support their learning and prepare them for school. Staff support all children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language, so that all make excellent progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220140
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	972358
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	107
Name of provider	Susan Hartley and David Hartley Partnership
Date of previous inspection	23 June 2011
Telephone number	01604 407740

Old Rectory Day Nursery opened in 1985. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, and 11 hold level 3 or above, including three with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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