

Abbey View Nursery And Pre-School

77 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HF



Inspection date

26 April 2016

Previous inspection date

1 February 2010

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

- Managers and staff are passionate about providing the best start possible for children. Rigorous monitoring, reflection and the ambitious vision of the provider effectively support continuous development. Staff actively pursue excellence in everything they do. Every session is extremely well organised to meet the needs of children of different ages and abilities.
- The staff are highly qualified. They have high expectations for all children's achievements. They promote children's language, thinking, imagination and curiosity skills excellently. Children are extremely confident and independent and are skilfully supported in gaining all the necessary skills to be well prepared for their eventual move on to school.
- Children are really keen to get involved in the many exciting activities. They persevere at tasks such as joining magnets together for considerable amounts of time. Children also become engrossed in role play and weave their own stories into their play.
- Teaching across the nursery is exemplary. Staff expertly use their knowledge of how children learn to create an environment that enthuses and motivates learning. Children are thoroughly supported in moving from the afternoon session to the more structured morning session in preparation for the next stage in their learning.
- Excellent partnerships with parents promote children's learning at nursery by sharing activities that extend their learning home. This helps them maintain momentum and interest in their learning. Parents are extremely complimentary about how their children have gained in their self-confidence and independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to pursue excellent professional development for staff so that they continue to develop their highly effective teaching skills in order to maintain the outstanding levels of achievement for all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities both indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery owner and manager. 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 selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector
Susan Parker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Each member of the staff team is really committed to providing outstanding learning for all children. They successfully plan and provide exciting and stimulating activities and resources which reflect the needs, abilities, ages and interests of the children. The excellent organisation of staff roles and their deployment help to meet children's individual needs. The ratio of staff to children is high. They support children really well to maintain concentration in their activity, to explore possibilities and learn through trial and error. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff are really enthusiastic about training and are always developing their skills and knowledge. Staff convey that learning is fun and children clearly adopt this attitude to become enthusiastic and curious learners.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The staff team provides excellent teaching and uses every opportunity to help children learn. Inspirational activities invite children to explore each of their senses. Staff plan activities really well and they use resources imaginatively. For example, children are comfortable to wear a blindfold and use only their senses of touch and smell to identify objects on a tray. This is further extended as children are encouraged to talk about the object's weight, shape, what they think it is made of and what they think it can do. Staff have established a high-quality assessment process to monitor children's progress. They discuss and review children's achievements daily and communicate very well with parents and other professionals. This promotes continuity and enhances their already detailed knowledge of the children and how to meet their individual learning needs. In order to maintain the outstanding levels of achievement for children, staff should continue to expand and develop their highly effective teaching skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Highly effective care practices help children to develop confidence and self-esteem. They have bonded very well with their key person and other staff members. Children show high levels of self-assurance and are eager to join in group activities. They talk about how to keep themselves safe and to show consideration for others during circle time, reinforcing their understanding of good behaviour and respect for each other. They demonstrate exemplary behaviour, awareness of others and self-control. Children are fully engaged, which helps them to maintain their attention so as not to distract others or become distracted themselves. They show how they play cooperatively, for example, children talk and work together, making plans and decisions about how they will build the train track.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children attending this nursery make good or exceptional progress based on their individual starting points. The nursery focuses strongly on communication. Children who speak English as an additional language make rapid progress in their communication and language development. Children's listening skills are extremely well promoted. Children enthusiastically and confidently take part in a listening game. This also encourages quieter children to gain confidence and join in.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY316208
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	849045
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	Jeannette Mary Burns
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2010
Telephone number	01727855935

Abbey View Nursery And Pre-School was registered in 2006. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 5 or level 6, including two staff with early years professional status or qualified teacher status. The nursery offers sessions from 8.30am to midday, 8.30am to 1pm, 1pm to 3 pm or 8.30am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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