

St Richard's School

Nursery Unit

Cawley Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1XB



Inspection date

4 May 2016

Previous inspection date

2 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- There is high emphasis on providing a very rich and stimulating learning environment, indoors and outdoors, which appeals to all children's learning styles. Children relish their exciting, self-chosen play opportunities and make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff fully understand each child and how they learn. They engage and challenge the children either spontaneously in play or during teacher-led activities. Teaching is consistently good and sometimes exceptional.
- The partnership with parents is very strong. The staff communicate successfully with parents through a variety of methods. They work hard together with parents to ensure that they meet children's educational and very specific care needs, which parents greatly appreciate.
- The managers are reflective of their practice. They are aware of their areas for improvement and are working on ways to address these.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although arrangements to monitor staff's performance are in place, they are not highly effective to ensure all staff gain the support and training to develop their personal effectiveness to the highest level.
- The systems to monitor the progress that children make are not fully effective to ensure children are making 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:

- improve the monitoring of staff performance, and staff development opportunities, to enable all staff to improve their teaching to the highest level
- continue to develop the systems for monitoring of children's progress to ensure the highest learning outcomes for all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's play activities and mealtime routine.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager about leadership and management, discussed self-evaluation and looked at relevant safeguarding documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff know what action they must take if they are worried about a child's welfare. They make sure that the premises are safe and secure so that children can play safely. The committee employs a well-qualified, experienced team that fully understands its responsibilities. There is suitable recruitment and induction of all staff. Overall, the leaders place due emphasis on performance management. For example, regular meetings take place as a group and with staff individually, although in recent years less importance has been paid to training. The staff work well with others involved in the care of the children, such as local schools and other professionals, to ensure children's needs are met.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are skilful teachers. They encourage children to play a dynamic role in their learning when possible and to offer their play ideas. For example, they draw illustrative pictures and talk about what 'Jack' may find at the top of his beanstalk. They use favourite stories to capture children's interest and know when to ask questions to extend children's learning. Staff allow time for children to explore and work things out for themselves during highly exciting child-led play. They offer them a very language-rich environment and, as a consequence, children become confident talkers using wide vocabulary. Staff weave mathematical learning into purposeful play, for example, when children make party food from play dough, they encourage counting and size recognition.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave extremely well. Staff are very positive role models. They praise children highly and have good methods to encourage listening skills during a change of routine. Children have very good relationships with staff and with their friends; they relate to them with extreme self-assurance. The different needs of the quieter and vulnerable children are met very well; they benefit from plenty of individual adult attention. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they play outdoors in all weathers and have ample opportunity to be active. Children enjoy healthy nutritious meals and snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are challenged and stimulated. They demonstrate an eagerness to investigate and explore. For example, they enthusiastically notice and talk about the purple bean that is growing a leaf out of the jar after looking closely at the items on the nature table. They have a lot of fun, take pleasure in their learning and achieve well, developing the skills to be ready for school. For example, they expertly take on the role of 'car mechanic' outdoors with their friends, talking enthusiastically about repairing vehicles, test driving, problem solving and practising their early writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113733
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	825048
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	St Richard's School Nursery Unit Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 November 2011
Telephone number	01243 776728

St Richard's Nursery School Unit registered in 1997. It operates from a purpose-built building in the grounds of St Richard's Primary School and is situated in a residential area of Chichester, West Sussex. The setting receives funding for nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday term time only from 8.30am to 3.15pm. The nursery employs eight members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff members hold Qualified Teacher Status.

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