

Otters Nursery Schools Ltd

Otters Nursery School, The Old Dairy, Farleigh Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 2JS



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

26 May 2016

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff give the highest priority to the safety of the children and their care. They consistently implement a comprehensive range of policies, procedures and daily practices for safeguarding and protecting children's welfare.
- Highly qualified and experienced senior staff lead an enthusiastic and effective teaching team. The quality of teaching and care is particularly good. Staff create a wealth of exciting learning opportunities for children as they play and experiment imaginatively indoors and outdoors.
- Children behave very well for their ages. They share experiences and learn to cooperate as they plan, negotiate and carry through ideas inspired by walks in the countryside; such as constructing an enormous cardboard castle.
- High levels of expertise across the staff in supporting children who have special educational needs ensure that all children make good or better progress in their learning from their unique starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Arrangements for sharing information with schools are not fully developed to ensure continuity and consistency in children's learning and care.
- Strategies to encourage parents to contribute to their children's ongoing learning and development are not yet fully effective.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the arrangements for sharing information and working in partnership with local schools so that new staff know children's current achievements and how best to support their moves to school
- continue to develop ways to engage and strengthen partnerships with all parents to ensure high levels of continuity in children's care and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a wide range of activities and care routines across the indoor and outdoor play areas. She talked with staff and children about what they were doing.
- The inspector reviewed documents relating to safeguarding, staff recruitment and self-evaluation, and checked a selection of other policies.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records and progress checks. She reviewed how the nursery's planning linked with children's next steps in learning and outcomes.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and letters from parents. She reviewed how information is shared with parents and sampled responses in parent questionnaires.
- The inspector observed various group activities and discussed the effectiveness of teaching with the manager.

Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are vigilant at keeping children safe as they play at the nursery and on outings into the surrounding countryside. They carefully plan and fully risk assess activities to ensure children are safe from harm. The manager knows precisely how she aims to achieve the best outcomes for all children. She chooses capable staff and strengthens the quality of teaching further through regular targeted professional development. Accurate evaluations with senior staff and external advisors ensure that the manager continues to raise standards and identify challenging improvements across the nursery. For example, a current focus is developing woodland areas.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a superb range of learning experiences tailored to meet children's individual needs and build on their interests. They give children plenty of time to experiment and to think creatively. For instance, children work out where different insects like to hide and they imagine they are different characters who are acting out stories with their friends. Perceptive, well-informed staff reflect on children's achievements and nurture them towards their next steps in learning. Staff assess and monitor children's level and rate of progress effectively to ensure good outcomes. Parents speak very positively about the information they receive from the nursery and their children's enthusiasm for learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment where children of all ages quickly settle. Children show how secure they feel in the care of kind and responsive staff. Toddlers happily explore fascinating play areas. They find reassurance in staff as they try new challenges and make new friends. Older children learn how to behave safely; for instance, as they climb over logs and splash through puddles in the countryside and as they learn about road safety. Staff skilfully support children's learning, health and physical development outdoors. For example, children enjoy a wealth of opportunities to sow and nurture plants, investigate wildlife and express their ideas using a wide range of materials and tools.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress across all areas of their learning and development. Staff prepare children well emotionally for their move to school. Older children practise changing for sporting activities. They become increasingly independent in managing some of their own needs, such as using the bathroom and finding their own books. Children are good at listening to each other's opinions and taking turns to contribute their ideas to group discussions. They know how to behave kindly to each other and ask for adult help when they cannot think of a way forward.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474524
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	985236
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Otters Nursery Schools Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP907079
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01256 336880

Otters Nursery School registered in 2014. It is a privately owned nursery situated on the outskirts of Basingstoke, in Hampshire. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year round. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. Nine of the 10 staff are qualified at level 3 or above, and four hold appropriate degrees.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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