

The Little School

Village Hall, West Meon, Petersfield, GU32 1LH



Inspection date

13 July 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: Previous inspection: | Outstanding Not applicable | 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 manager and staff team have a highly ambitious vision for this outstanding provision. They foster and respect children as individuals and strive to ensure that all children, regardless of their starting points, can fulfil their potential.
- Staff use parents' expert knowledge of their children to assess children's progress accurately from the beginning. They rigorously monitor children's learning to identify and swiftly address any gaps in their development. All children make rapid progress from their starting points.
- Children behave exceptionally well. They quickly learn to negotiate and resolve their own disputes. The staff team offers highly exceptional and affectionate care. This enables children to form extremely secure emotional attachments with other children and the staff team.
- Staff place a high priority on developing children's language skills. For example, they interact exceptionally well with all children at a level appropriate to their understanding. Furthermore, staff are extremely responsive to children and introduce descriptive words to extend children's vocabulary during routines and activities.
- The manager and staff have developed highly effective partnerships with parents, local schools and other early years providers. They prepare children extremely well for a successful move on to the next stage in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on professional development opportunities, to enhance the already excellent quality of teaching.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school and invited the manager to take part in a joint observation.
- The inspector observed the quality of staff interactions with children.
- The inspector held discussions with the managers, provider and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector looked at various documents, including policies and procedures, risk assessments, staff training records, records of children and evidence of the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Jane Franks

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager prioritises children's safety and ensures that all staff have a thorough understanding of child protection procedures. Self-evaluation is comprehensive. The inspiring manager sets extremely high standards and reflects constantly on practice to drive improvements. For example, following evaluation, children take part in highly effective learning experiences to enhance their literacy skills. The manager carefully monitors the exceptional quality of teaching. She is very keen to enhance opportunities for professional development, to support staff in refining their teaching and raising the quality of their practice to an even higher level. Parents provide excellent feedback on the outstanding quality of care and learning provided.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The highly experienced staff team knows children exceptionally well. It accurately observes and assesses children's learning, skilfully tailors experiences and adapts learning activities to meet the needs and abilities of all children. Staff are extremely attentive to children's play. They nurture children's interests, consistently enhance their thinking skills and enable them to find their own solutions. For example, children showed excellent problem solving skills as they hunted for natural resources to construct a plank for their pirate ship. The excellent teaching helps children to extend their own ideas so that they are highly eager to learn more. For example, children predicted and excitedly acted out the end of a story, showing excellent imagination.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are excellent role models. For example, they listen to children, consistently challenge them to succeed and praise their achievements. Children thoroughly enjoy regular outings in the local area and learn a great deal about a range of cultures and beliefs. For example, they compare and contrast different houses when walking in the community, and have great opportunities to collect water from across the field, using natural resources. Staff are highly effective in encouraging children to think about personal risks. For example, they actively involve children in risk assessment and incorporate road safety through exciting play experiences.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are highly confident, capable and develop excellent independence skills. They are beginning to recognise and write their names and other familiar words and numbers. Staff use every opportunity to help children to count and solve practical problems as they play. Children excitedly explore and investigate their world. For example, they look under logs and discuss the different insects with genuine interest. They develop the skills they need to secure future learning and prepare them for school.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY485240 |
| Local authority | Hampshire |
| Inspection number | 1002419 |
| Type of provision | Sessional provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register |
| Age range of children | 2 - 5 |
| Total number of places | 14 |
| Number of children on roll | 10 |
| Name of registered person | Gemma Jean Kate O'Reilly |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP516307 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |
| Telephone number | 07572589548 |

The Little School re-registered in 2015 under new ownership. It is one of two settings in the local area privately owned by the same provider. It operates from the village hall in West Meon, Hampshire. The setting opens during term time on Monday and Wednesday from 9.15am to 3.15pm and on Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are two members of staff, who both hold an early years qualification to level3.

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