

Choochoos Day Nursery Canterbury

50 Mill Lane, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8NE



Inspection date

28 July 2016

Previous inspection date

25 June 2013

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

- Older children develop a highly impressive understanding of early writing skills. For example, they listen to sounds and draw what they hear, giving meaning to the marks they make. This supports them exceptionally well for their future learning.
- Staff maintain extremely positive partnerships with parents. They encourage the involvement of parents and shared learning of children exceptionally well. For example, they invite parents to attend workshops to share training ideas with them.
- There is extensive support for children who speak English as an additional language to make outstanding progress. For example, children participate in language classes and make up songs using key words from their home language.
- The management team fully encourages staff to work together to make impressive changes that have a highly positive impact on children's learning. For example, staff in each room evaluate their practice daily and decide on very effective action plans.
- All children engage in inspirational learning opportunities and make outstanding progress.
- There are excellent opportunities for children to develop their physical abilities and challenge their skills. For example, they climb trees and swing on rope ladders.
- All children, including babies, experience highly motivating and stimulating activities that support their understanding of why things happen. For example, they participate in daily science experiments, such as making their own fizzy sand.

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 the already excellent opportunities for young children to extend their mathematical skills and understanding as they play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff's interaction with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at the written documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team motivates all staff to develop their impressive teaching knowledge even further, such as attending training to meet children's specific needs. Managers continuously evaluate the nursery and monitor the quality of teaching extremely well. They provide staff with individual support meetings and constructive feedback after observing practice. Managers ensure that staff learn from training and information updates, for instance, with regular quizzes such as for safeguarding. They are extremely effective as they review children's progress. They accurately track development for individuals and groups of children to highlight any gaps that require support to close. Managers develop excellent partnerships with other early years professionals, for example, they create information leaflets to share. All staff have an extremely detailed knowledge of the child protection procedures and know who to contact to protect children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff support children extremely well to manage the move to school. For example, they attend settling-in sessions with them. Staff have exceptional knowledge of children's interests and are highly skilled at extending their learning. For example, children enthusiastically told their friends a story and staff helped them create a theatre, with children making tickets and using resources to bring the story to life. Staff support children's communication skills particularly well. They ask highly skilful questions to encourage children to think and they consistently use signing with babies. Staff highlight plans to extend young children's mathematical awareness.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have excellent experiences to develop their understanding of people's similarities and differences. Regular visitors share skills, such as teaching dances from their culture. Children have exceptional opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they grow their own herbs, fruits and vegetables to use in meals. Staff maintain extremely close and nurturing relationships with children. Children have a highly positive level of well-being and sense of belonging. Staff visit children at home to begin to build bonds before they start at the nursery.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children develop exceptional skills to support their next stage of learning. Older children are prepared extremely well for the move to school. Children's behaviour and social skills are impeccable. They compromise, share and take turns with a high level of maturity. Children have inspirational opportunities to develop their creativity. For example, they participate in woodwork classes and make their own sculptures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414930
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1053948
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	Karla Margharita Tabony
Registered person unique reference number	RP514727
Date of previous inspection	25 June 2013
Telephone number	01227 464 230

Choochoos Day Nursery Canterbury registered in 2010. It is one of three nurseries owned by the same provider and operates from a building in Harbledown, near Canterbury, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 18 staff, 12 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. One staff member holds a relevant early years degree and one member of staff has early years professional status.

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