

Stables Nursery

Mountains Stables, Noble Tree Road, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 8ND



Inspection date

25 August 2016

Previous inspection date

19 December 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- All staff work effectively as a team. Accurate self-evaluation takes account of the views of staff and parents and helps the manager to identify areas for improvement.
- Children benefit from good quality teaching and make good progress in their learning and development. Staff make good use of ongoing observation and assessment to help them to plan suitably challenging activities.
- Children behave well and develop good social skills. They form positive bonds with staff and appreciate the good use of humour to capture their interest in activities.
- There is a very broad and interesting range of resources available to the children indoors and outdoors. These enhance children's learning and enjoyment.
- There are effective arrangements to work with parents and other professionals to meet children's individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, children are not fully confident or able to explore their own ideas to enhance their learning.
- Staff are not always fully aware of recent changes in practice or national guidance which might help to enhance children's outcomes further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer more support for older children to explore their own creative ideas
- help staff to keep fully up to date with recent changes in practice and national guidance to develop their knowledge and expertise further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the nursery, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector observed the interaction of staff and children during a variety of activities.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and read a selection of parents' written views.
- The inspector checked a sample of documentation, including safeguarding and complaints policies, details of staff suitability checks and children's records.

Inspector

Liz Caluori

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager takes lead responsibility for child protection and has a thorough understanding of the action to take should concerns arise about the welfare of any child. The manager checks the performance of staff well and accurately assesses the impact of teaching. She typically makes good use of the training and knowledge of each staff member and is seeking ways of enhancing it even more. Staff work effectively in exchanging information with parents and other professionals involved in the care and teaching of the children to ensure their good outcomes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well. They typically plan suitably challenging activities and experiences that capture children's interests and enthuse most of them to learn. Children develop good communication and language skills. Staff working with babies and toddlers skilfully help them to gain listening skills and develop their vocabulary. For example, older children enjoy many interesting conversations with staff and with their friends. They are confident to share their views. Children enjoy shared reading opportunities with staff. Staff make good use of these to build on children's existing knowledge. For example, a group of older children found it extremely funny when a member of staff purposely misread lines from a well-known story. They excitedly offered the correct lines and this led to a lively and interesting discussion.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have fun as they play and learn. They are confident, well-behaved and develop good social skills. All children respond very positively to the warm, caring interaction of staff. Staff are very sensitive to each child's emotional well-being and this is evident throughout all age groups. For example, there are very well-considered arrangements to support each child as they progress upwards through the different group rooms. Staff develop children's independence well. They help them to consider how to take responsibility for their environment and how to remain safe. For example, children take turns in accompanying staff on daily health and safety checks around the nursery.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They are enthusiastic, confident learners and are prepared well for their future move to school. Children like discovering new things. For example, babies and toddlers delight in the regular visits to them by the nursery rabbit. Older children enjoy their play, for example, as they pour and sift brightly coloured sand and test their capabilities through a range of physical activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY298761
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1058818
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	0 - 8
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	140
Name of registered person	CGJ Enterprises Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906435
Date of previous inspection	19 December 2012
Telephone number	01732 833266

Stables Nursery registered in 2005. It is located in a rural area of Tonbridge, Kent. The nursery open from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery offers a breakfast club and after-school facility and holiday play service to children of school age. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 19 staff including the owner, a chef and an office manager. The owner holds early years professional status and 14 staff hold relevant qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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