

Castle Nursery

De Vere Primary School, Kirby Hall Road, Castle Hedingham, HALSTEAD, Essex, CO9 3EA



Inspection date	23 February 2017
Previous inspection date	28 February 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Teaching is inspirational. Staff have an expert knowledge of how children learn best through play and first-hand experiences. They ensure that activities provide optimum challenge and are sharply focused on what individual children need to learn next.
- Children flourish in the extremely caring, safe and secure environment. Staff fully understand the needs of the children and their families. Parents are very appreciative of the exceptional lengths staff go to in tailoring the provision to meet the needs of all children and exceeding expectations of quality and standards.
- The nursery provides a rich and vibrant learning environment where the children are highly stimulated. Varied and imaginative play experiences for children, especially outdoors, are delivered by staff who have an excellent understanding of how children learn.
- Leadership is highly effective. The management team shows a strong focus and passionate drive to provide excellent care and inspirational learning for children. Staff are highly motivated and work exceptionally well together, creating a wonderful learning environment for children.
- Excellent partnership working helps to promote a complementary approach to children's learning and development between the setting and home. There is an exemplary focus on fully involving parents and families in children's learning. Staff and parents eagerly talk about the children's current and emerging interests and abilities. They exchange ideas to further enhance children's progress.
- Rigorous and highly effective systems for observing, assessing and monitoring children's progress are in place. This helps to promote the highest level of achievement for children of all ages.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement innovative ways to enrich children's mathematical learning experiences, analysing the impact of this on their further attainment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers ensure staff are vigilant and confident in following the stringent procedures to record and report any concerns about a child's welfare in a timely manner. Managers lead a strong and experienced team. All staff have an uncompromising commitment towards improvement and enthusiastically reflect on, and evaluate, all aspects of the provision. They frequently seek the opinions of children, parents, carers and other professionals, in order to pinpoint key priorities for further enhancement. They have exciting ideas and are working with others to fulfil plans to help them enhance their mathematical provision even further, in order to ensure that the excellent standard of the educational programmes is maintained.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know precisely what to do to enrich children's learning. There is an excellent focus on learning, both indoors and outdoors. The highly effective teaching and superbly stimulating activities help to challenge children and build on their interests. Consequently, all children are very well prepared for school. Staff have excellent procedures to ensure that their assessments of children's achievement are precise and accurate. There is swift identification of any concerns about children's progress. Specific input is sought from relevant agencies and professionals to ensure children make the best progress possible. Staff use their knowledge of each child to plan extremely imaginative activities which thoroughly engage all groups of children and promote all aspects of learning. For example, staff help children to think through their ideas during group storytelling sessions. The superb key-person approach ensures that parents are extremely well informed about their children's achievements and progress. They are regularly invited to share information about their child's development and are actively involved in their child's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's social and emotional development are given the highest priority. They consistently value their efforts and contributions. Staff provide a variety of experiences in the local community for children to learn about the wider world, such as shopping trips to the local village shop. Children develop an excellent understanding of managing their personal safety. For example, staff actively involve them in carrying out daily risk assessments of the nursery environment to help keep themselves and their peers safe. Children's physical well-being is superbly promoted. They observe the effects of exercise on their bodies during 'healthy heart' time and know why they need to eat healthy foods.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children feel very secure, happy and relaxed in their play. They make exceptional progress given their starting points and are particularly well prepared for change when it is time to move on. Children are remarkably independent in care routines and in their play. Staff offer a proportionate amount of guidance and support so that children quickly become empowered to do things for themselves. Staff sensitively teach children to understand behavioural expectations. All children behave exceptionally well and demonstrate high levels of cooperation with others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY451282
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1066173
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Castle Hedingham Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP911451
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2013
Telephone number	01787 463450

Castle Nursery was registered in 2012. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualifications at level 5, one at level 4, two at level 3 and one at level 2. The nursery opens on Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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