

Shorncliffe Nursery

MacKenzie Drive, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3LR



Inspection date

8 March 2017

Previous inspection date

13 February 2015

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

- Children have an abundance of stimulating and vibrant experiences to choose from, which allows them to make very informed and confident choices in their play. They are extremely motivated and actively involved in their learning. All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make outstanding progress from their starting points.
- The management team have the highest expectations of staff. They continually reflect on the service they provide and have well-established and highly effective plans for development. The views of children, parents, and staff are incorporated into the plans to ensure they are precisely focused on providing the highest quality provision for all children.
- Staff make effective use of their accurate observations and assessments of children's achievements. They take account of children's differing abilities and interests, to plan exciting, relevant and suitably challenging activities.
- The management team develop exceptionally strong relationships with parents and early years professionals. This helps to meet children's individual personal, social and emotional needs and to provide an outstanding level of continuity in their care and learning.
- The highly impressive, and constantly evolving outside play spaces, give children daily opportunities to exercise and practise their physical skills. For example, they are able to take small risks, as they increase their climbing and balancing abilities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen further the opportunities for younger children to extend their learning through investigation and exploration.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the nursery manager and some committee members. They discussed the plans in place to continue to develop the service they provide to children and their families.
- The inspector spoke to children and a number of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in all areas of the nursery and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation; including the children's learning and development records, tracking and monitoring information and the safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The management and staff team have an in-depth knowledge and awareness of current safeguarding procedures. They know how to report any concerns about children in their care. The management team is exceptionally well organised and regularly monitor staff's performance. They have an extremely detailed staff training plan in place and receive support from a network of other professionals, to keep their knowledge and skills up-to-date. The management team meticulously monitor staff's assessments of children's development. This helps to ensure that any gaps in children's learning are addressed quickly. For example, they use additional funding to purchase resources to focus on helping children to develop further their social skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children participate in an abundance of experiences, which reflect their background, culture, and home life. For instance, they access an array of resources, signs in dual languages and they learn nursery rhymes in both English and Nepalese, to help them to integrate within their local community. Children join in with innovative activities, which encourage them to develop new skills. For example, they use a multitude of different tools and sensory materials to explore textures and to develop their imagination. Children extend their interest in mathematics and problem solving. For example, they investigate gravity and distance as they roll objects down increasingly steep inclines.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely happy and demonstrate excellent manners and behaviour. They show exceptional levels of independence. For example, children manage snack time efficiently and they expertly cut up fruit and vegetables ready to eat. Children learn how to manage their own feelings and learn to share and take turns. For instance, they wait patiently for friends to have a turn balancing along the stepping-stones. Children play in an incredibly engaging environment. However, opportunities for younger children to fully explore the environment independently are not as well developed.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children develop excellent communication and language skills. For instance, they eagerly explain how to transfer water from one container to another, and the skilfully pour water through tubes. Older children recognise letters and develop superb early writing skills. They identify and name objects that begin with the sound the letter represents and they make good use of the available opportunities to practise their writing. All children make tremendous progress and learn to respect and value the differences between themselves and others. Children are highly motivated and are learning the skills needed for their future. They are exceptionally well prepared for their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336391
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1085851
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	Shorncliffe Station Nursery School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903945
Date of previous inspection	13 February 2015
Telephone number	01303278442

Shorncliffe Nursery registered in 2006. The nursery is situated in Cheriton, near to Shorncliffe Garrison in Folkestone, Kent. The nursery is committee run. It operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two-, three- and four years. They employ eight members of staff. Of these, seven hold a relevant early years qualification at level 2 or above.

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