

The Farmhouse Nursery School

5 Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 4AZ



Inspection date

30 March 2017

Previous inspection date

12 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

- Leaders are exceptionally passionate about providing excellent outcomes for children. They are extremely reflective and proactive in identifying improvements and making changes to consistently raise the quality of the provision.
- Children thrive in the nursery, enjoying an abundance of exciting and challenging play and learning experiences. Staff give children time to be curious, inquisitive and work out things for themselves. This means that children develop a thirst for learning and are well prepared for their next stage in learning, including school.
- The manager is highly supportive and ambitious to offer a high-quality service for children and their families. She uses her qualifications and experience to great effect to support staff and identify training needs, for example, to help staff support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Staff are kind, caring and committed to their roles. They help children to settle extraordinarily quickly and they tailor learning to meet children's individual needs.
- Children make rapid progress in their learning. Staff know the children remarkably well. They identify and close any gaps in children's development quickly, such as through individualised support, to help children excel towards the learning goals.
- Superb partnerships, both with parents and other professionals, ensure that children's individual needs are recognised and given the utmost priority.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to review and explore professional development opportunities to sustain excellence in practice and teaching skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of a planned activity with a member of staff and discussed children's learning and development.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to the provider, manager, staff, parents and children.
- The inspector sampled required documents and records, including safeguarding procedures, and assessed staff's understanding of how to implement these.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Leaders of the setting inspire the whole team, which works together cohesively, maintaining the highest levels of achievement for children. There are superb systems in place to evaluate all aspects of the provision, including the quality of teaching and learning, leading to exceptional practice. Rigorous assessment of children's progress is precise and accurate. Staff continue to increase their superb knowledge and understanding about early years education through targeted coaching and mentoring. Leaders are considering how to further improve these systems that review the excellent practice to ensure it is sustained. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders ensure that all staff have a confident understanding of their role and responsibility in protecting children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff extend and enrich children's learning, expertly planning experiences that reflect their interests. Staff promote children's understanding of the world in exceptional ways. For example, they plan exciting trips outdoors and teach children how to use technology in daily life. Staff are excellent teachers. For example, they are highly skilled at knowing when to ask questions or make comments and have the confidence to sometimes stand back and let the children explore and learn independently. Staff use a wide range of effective ways to support children who are learning English as an additional language or those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. For example, children use simple sign language highly effectively to communicate their needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff place children's well-being at the centre of everything they do. Children's emotional well-being is given the utmost priority by a truly caring staff team. Children are highly independent and staff encourage them to take appropriate risks as they try things for themselves. Children develop an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles. For example, children make soup from produce grown in the garden, and they learn through national campaigns about the benefits of excellent oral health. Staff provide children with excellent outdoor learning experiences at the nursery and within the local community. Staff provide an exceptional range of resources and activities that reflects and values the diversity of children's home lives and experiences. They help children gain an understanding of people, their community and the wider world.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are confident and excited to lead their own learning. Older children gain an excellent understanding of letters and the sounds they represent; they are becoming skilled early writers and articulate communicators. Younger children display remarkable social awareness. All children make excellent progress in readiness for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426357
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1085941
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	2 - 7
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	J & A Education Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP530575
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2015
Telephone number	01993700797

The Farmhouse Nursery School is a privately owned day nursery and out-of-school provision run by J and A Education Ltd. It is open daily during school term times from 8.30am to 3.15pm. A breakfast club is available from 8am, and after-school club sessions operate from 3.15pm to 6pm. It also operates during some school holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years, and is in receipt of early years pupil premium funding. The nursery employs nine staff, of whom seven hold relevant qualifications, including qualified teacher status. Three members of staff are currently working towards relevant qualifications.

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