

Garden Cottage Nursery

The Square, Highden, London Road, Washington, West Sussex, RH20 4BA



Inspection date

13 June 2017

Previous inspection date

9 April 2015

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

- The well-qualified provider and the staff team have worked hard to maintain and enhance the extremely high standards of care and learning for children. The provider and her highly experienced deputy consistently seek, evaluate and act on views of staff, children and their parents to continually drive improvement.
- Staff provide very high-quality teaching and they ensure each child receives the support they need to reach their full potential. Consequently, children are inquisitive learners and skilful interactions help them to gain high levels of confidence. Purposeful outings, such as visiting animals and the forest, also contributes to this.
- Staff caring for babies and toddlers are warm and nurturing. They are particularly attentive to their needs, offering cuddles and reassurance as necessary. Consequently, children settle well and have secure emotional attachments to staff. Older children are extremely well behaved and have exceptionally good manners.
- Partnership working with parents and other professionals is very strong. Staff share information quickly and effectively to help ensure that children's care and learning needs are consistently met exceptionally well. Parents speak highly about the setting and praise the high quality of teaching and care that their children receive.
- Staff complete observations and detailed assessments. Gaps in children's progress are quickly identified and highly effective teaching strategies are implemented.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the highly effective programme of professional development to consistently drive and sustain the already outstanding teaching practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the provider, the staff team, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection. She observed all areas used by children and activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager. She held a meeting with the senior staff team.
- The inspector looked at samples of children's records and planning documentation. She also looked at evidence of the suitability of staff working with the children.
- The inspector sampled a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding policy, accident records and risk assessments.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider, who is also the manager, has exceptionally high expectations for what children can achieve. She shares her experience with staff and ensures children are provided with high-quality learning experiences. The provider uses very robust recruitment procedures to help ensure the suitability of staff. Detailed inductions, supervision meetings and daily discussions contribute effectively to monitoring staff's performance. The manager recognises the importance of continuing to enhance staff's knowledge, skills and expertise even further. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of what to do and who to contact if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Children's safety is central to everything staff do and they are extremely vigilant of children at all times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan a very wide range of rich, imaginative and enjoyable experiences that keeps children interested and engaged in learning. Staff expertly use an interest in a popular story to extend children's communication skills. For example, children enthusiastically sing the related complex songs. Older children excitedly tell visitors about the forthcoming concert and their individual roles. There is an extremely strong focus on outdoor learning. This is skilfully used to help children extend all aspects of learning, such as the formation of letters and mathematical understanding. Younger pre-school children delight in spotting birds who come to eat the bird food that they have made. Staff take every available moment to support babies' and toddlers' emerging communication skills superbly.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff know children extremely well. The home visits and regular discussions with parents about their children's changing needs contribute to this. Staff ensure babies' home routines are followed and take positive steps to ensure sleeping children are comfortable. Staff encourage children to be very independent from an early age and make them feel extremely valued. For example, they listen attentively to children's daily news and eagerly engage in their conversations. Children's nutritious mealtimes are sociable occasions. Staff sit alongside them and reflect on the day so far. Children confidently explain to visitors how to keep safe when feeding the animals and when they visit the forest. They have ample opportunities to practise their physical skills, such as climbing on wooden structures.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points. They are highly motivated and become engrossed in learning. They are rapidly gaining skills they need to support their future learning. Children eagerly read books which they take home to share with their family. They have excellent social skills and manage their own personal care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113496
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1099952
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 - 4
Total number of places	78
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Lesley Jane Denman
Registered person unique reference number	RP513002
Date of previous inspection	9 April 2015
Telephone number	01903 877718

Garden Cottage Nursery registered in 2000. It is situated in Washington, West Sussex. The nursery employs 15 members of staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. One member of staff holds a level 2 forest school qualification. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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