

Clavering & Arkesden Preschool



Clavering And Arkesden Preschool, Stortford Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4PE

Inspection date

21 June 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff are highly motivated and work exceptionally well together, creating excellent learning opportunities within a safe and secure environment. Children are provided with outstanding learning experiences from the highly qualified leadership team and staff.
- Children's welfare and personal development are central to all that staff do. Staff are highly skilled, asking probing questions and providing time for children to think and respond. Staff nurture an extremely warm and caring atmosphere. The key-person system supports each child and their family.
- Children are taught to respect and value each other's views, customs and similarities. They play exceptionally well together.
- Teaching is consistently excellent throughout the pre-school. Staff have a superb knowledge of how children play and learn. Their support is highly effective, enabling all children to make rapid progress in readiness for school.
- Staff monitor children's progress accurately. This enables them to swiftly identify areas where children need more support. Staff work exceptionally closely with parents and other professionals to ensure there is an extremely consistent approach that precisely meets children's individual needs.
- Children flourish in the highly stimulating and enabling environment. They benefit from the wealth of first-hand experiences and activities. Children excitedly engage in forest school activities or quietly use the bird hide where they learn to identify different types of birds. Children create various models from wood, using real tools with care.
- Partnerships with school staff are excellent. Relevant and precise information sharing enables each child to settle quickly and build very securely on their existing knowledge.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to share innovative ways to promote home learning ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity and discussed this with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector also discussed with the manager and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through email feedback and discussions during the inspection.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff recruitment is carried out robustly to protect children from unsuitable adults. All staff have a very secure knowledge of how to safeguard children in their care. Considered targets for managing staff performance are linked effectively to regular reviews of teaching and monitoring children's progress. Professional development builds on staff's exceptional existing knowledge. Teaching strategies are very effective and standards for all children rise regardless of age, ability or starting points. The management team has an accurate view of its strengths and areas for development. They use this information very well to set sharply focused and well-chosen priorities for raising achievement and continuously developing practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff build securely on prior learning as they narrate and skilfully question children. They make excellent use of well-chosen resources to stimulate children's interest and participation. Assessment for learning is used superbly to match learning tasks to the different development needs of each child. Deployment of staff is managed outstandingly in relation to their exceptional subject knowledge and skills. All children are challenged very effectively. Children are enthused and inquisitive as they experience a very exciting mix of adult-led activities and personal investigation into what, how and why. Staff promote children's emotional and physical development while extending their communication skills to an exceptionally high level. Parents are delighted with the quality of care and education their children receive. Staff have highlighted that there is opportunity to explore further innovative ways to involve parents and children in shared home learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are excellent role models. They encourage children to be polite and to use good manners. Children quickly understand that their behaviour and actions can affect others. Children develop their independence while confidently and safely using knives to prepare snack or when changing the water in the jug when a bug lands on the side. Staff consistently implement extremely effective support methods to embed healthy lifestyles into all aspects of practice. Children develop superb physical skills as they explore the very well-equipped indoor and outdoor areas.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make excellent progress. They listen carefully and with interest, keenly following instructions and joining in enthusiastically. Children explore different types of cereal, picking up seeds with tweezers or comparing stalks of wheat or barley, extending their general knowledge. They confidently use mathematical language as they play and have many opportunities to count, adding more or taking away.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489569
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1015289
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Clavering & Arkesden Preschool
Registered person unique reference number	RP534618
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01799 550380

Clavering & Arkesden Preschool registered in 2015. The pre-school committee employs seven members of childcare staff. All seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including two with qualified teacher status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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