

The Saplings Pre-School

Burnham Copse Primary School, Newchurch Road, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 4HN



Inspection date	28 June 2017
Previous inspection date	30 June 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

- Staff use their excellent teaching skills to provide children with rich and stimulating learning experiences. Children are extremely enthusiastic learners and enjoy exploring the wide range of exciting activities that staff design. This helps children to further extend their play ideas and develop their imaginations.
- The manager combines her excellent understanding of how children learn with her management skills to continuously support and develop all staff. This helps staff to plan creative activities that encourage children to practise their explorative and independence skills. For example, children thoroughly enjoy being dressed as pirates and write instructions in the role-play area.
- Children have very high standards of behaviour and confidence. Staff sensitively support children who are anxious, timid or shy to learn to be curious about an activity. The children watch, play alongside and, when they feel ready, take part in physical exercise in the large school hall.
- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. Parents appreciate the extra support and help that the staff and manager provide. For example, they value the assistance they receive if they need to attend meetings or complete forms when children need additional help and support.
- The relationships between professionals and other settings, including schools the children attend, are excellent. All children make exceptional progress from their individual starting points and are very well prepared for their next stage in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to prepare staff for increased responsibility to help maintain the excellent standards of learning and care.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play outside and talked with the children about their activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager in relation to observations of children's learning and assessed the impact this has on their progress.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including suitability checks, qualifications and children's records.
- The inspector held discussions with parents and staff.
- The inspector had a tour of the setting.

Inspector

Heather Rushton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager is highly motivated with very high expectations. She encourages staff to constantly challenge each other to help maintain the excellent high standards. The manager monitors staff very closely and is planning to increase support to help prepare them for increased responsibility. Children's progress is rapid and consistent. Staff prepare the environment and develop their knowledge and skills to support children who have special educational needs to attain the expected level in key skills and excel in their physical development. Safeguarding is effective. The manager places a high priority on ensuring staff's child protection knowledge is up to date. All staff know where to seek help for any concerns regarding children's welfare or safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's assessments, and their excellent knowledge of each child, help them to extend and develop children's own ideas in their play. Staff plan activities to fully excite, engage and motivate children. For example, as children cut out shapes to make pictures of boats, they talk about the main features and imagine where their boat will sail to. Staff encourage children to extend their imaginations further. For instance, when children found 'green monster' footsteps, staff and children explored them together. Staff support all children to be successful in their learning. For example, they invite younger children to play with them in the smaller garden where they create rock pools in the sand.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have very strong relationships with adults and other children. They settle quickly, which helps them to be happy, imaginative and resilient learners. For example, children are determined to get the ball into the basketball net. When they are successful, they squeal with delight and give each other a hug celebrating their own success. Children independently help each other to understand how to share the cinnamon scented play dough so that everyone has enough to make a model. Children use high-quality technological toys to explore how to mix colours and gain the confidence to paint and get messy hands.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning. They talk with confidence to express their ideas and ask questions. For instance, they use a book to retell a story where the caterpillar hatches into a butterfly, checking the accuracy of their story with adults who listen attentively. Children's mathematical language skills are very well developed, which helps them to solve problems. Older children write their own names on their work. All children enjoy singing songs they have learnt while they play. Children develop a broad vocabulary through the activities they enjoy in the 'language dome'.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY333449
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1092707
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	The Saplings Pre-School PLC
Registered person unique reference number	RP527162
Date of previous inspection	30 June 2015
Telephone number	07960030240

The Saplings Pre-School registered in 2005. It operates from the grounds of Burnham Copse Primary School in Tadley, Hampshire. The pre-school is open from 8am to 4pm each weekday in term time. It offers some school holiday care depending on demand. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are eight members of staff who work with the children. The manager has early years professional status and five members of staff hold qualifications at level 3.

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