

The Beehive Montessori Forest School

Tenterden Spinney (off the Grove), Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 5LG



Inspection date	26 April 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The provider is a strong manager and leader who has very high expectations for the children attending. She is extremely attentive in ensuring children learn about their own safety and gain independence, resilience and confidence during forest school activities.
- Staff know the children very well. They use their knowledge of children's interests and abilities gained from children's attendance at the provider's other setting. Staff are able to plan well for children's learning and participation at the forest school.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their activities. They engage with eagerness and motivation within the exciting, challenging and interesting outdoor, natural environment. They make good developmental progress.
- Staff highly prioritise children's safety. They use risk assessments, policies and procedures effectively to ensure children's safety, health and well-being. Parents are provided with a broad range of information to help them understand the aims of forest school and how it complements children's learning in their main setting.
- Children show an exemplary awareness of expectations for behaviour. They understand the boundaries and rules that keep them safe and abide by these at all times.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently use their skills and knowledge confidently while working alongside the provider, to further enhance the already good quality of teaching and children's engagement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer further coaching to staff to build and enhance their skills for implementing the forest school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children during forest school activities.
- The inspector spoke with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider. They discussed how staff are supported to develop their skills and knowledge.
- The inspector met with the provider following the forest school session. The inspector spoke with the provider about how staff plan for children's learning.
- The inspector sampled the provider's documentation.

Inspector

Aileen Finan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider uses effective systems for recruitment to ensure staff's suitability. She provides staff with training, for example, to help broaden children's communication skills. She guides staff's implementation of forest school principles, which helps them to gain a high focus on safety and promotes children's exploration and socialisation skills. Staff reflect well on the provision and have clear plans for future improvement. Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate understanding of all aspects of safeguarding matters and how to protect children. Parents are very positive about the provision. They acknowledge the 'wonderful experiences' and speak highly of the 'many opportunities to support their children's exploration and confidence'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their knowledge of the children to build on their learning during forest school activities. They make focused observations and assessments of children's achievements and carefully track the progress children make. Enthusiastic staff offer a broad range of activities. The provider is extremely proactive in supporting children's wider learning. For instance, she confidently uses props and puppets to engage children's interest, such as when learning about birds, the environmental danger of dropping litter, and when reading with children. Children are acquiring a special interest in the outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children flourish in the highly stimulating environment. They show high levels of independence. The provider skilfully uses puppets to sustain children's attention while helping them understand safety in regard to potential dangers. For example, she sensitively helps children learn about stranger danger, and they confidently act out scenarios to demonstrate this to their friends. Children know forest school rules, for example, that boundary ropes are there to protect them. Children show high levels of understanding, knowing when the whistle sounds they must return immediately to base camp. They know to drag rather than lift a stick to ensure they keep each other safe. They show respect for the environment, knowing not to pick growing flowers. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and carefully place rubbish in the bin. They take turns, share and play extremely contentedly alongside each other.

Outcomes for children are good

Children thoroughly enjoy their activities. They demonstrate high levels of confidence and willingness to explore the natural world. For example, children learn how birds make nests and use words such as 'prickly', 'soft' and 'rough' as they describe their contents. Children develop confidence in their physical abilities as they swing from rope swings and transport themselves over bridges made from trees and rope. They enhance their imagination as they play inside the large den made from branches and twigs, pretend to cook and invite their friends into their castle. All children benefit from the vast range of outdoor experiences and show readiness for the next stages in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY494409
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1027422
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 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Lyndsey Maclaren Nelson
Registered person unique reference number	RP910580
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07932173990

The Beehive Montessori Forest School registered in 2015. The forest school employs five members of staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 4. The forest school operates one morning a week, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The forest school receives funding to provide free education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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