

Chiddingstone Nursery School

Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent
TN8 7AD



Inspection date	15 May 2019
Previous inspection date	28 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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 establish outstanding relationships with children. They get to know children's individual personalities extremely well. This helps children settle rapidly and be extremely confident and exceptionally happy during their time at the setting.
- Staff build and maintain incredibly good partnerships with parents and keep them exceptionally well informed about their children's learning. They share training and activity ideas daily. For example, they make leaflets to inform parents about early numeracy and literacy and how they can support their children to enjoy these at home.
- The manager and staff evaluate their practice exceptionally well. For instance, they fully include children in their daily reflection meetings and gather their feedback daily. They use their findings to keep children fascinated in their inspiring learning opportunities.
- The manager and staff monitor and track children's individual and differing group progress incredibly well. This supports them to rapidly identify any gaps and provide outstanding support for children to exceed their learning expectations.
- Children have outstanding opportunities to gain reading skills. For example, they explore an extensive range of reading materials in both the indoor and outdoor environments. This includes books and labels in other languages, such as Romanian.
- Staff are inspirational role models. Children are extremely polite and their behaviour is impeccable. Children add to the rules and follow them with excellent independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the already excellent opportunities children have to develop their respect and understanding of other people's similarities and differences outside of their own communities and beliefs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments children use.
- The inspector looked at written documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the impact of the staff's teaching on children's learning.

Inspector
Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The manager and staff attend incredibly beneficial training to enhance their practice and build on their already excellent skills and knowledge. For instance, they have learned how to support all children to develop their communication skills in extensive ways. This includes implementing den-making activities to provide children with more inviting spaces to encourage them to be extremely confident to communicate their ideas. The manager closely monitors the consistency of care and teaching staff provide for children. She observes staff daily and they hold regular meetings to set exceptionally challenging targets to keep children enthralled in their learning. The manager highlights that she intends to enhance children's respect and understanding of other people's similarities and differences even further. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an exceptionally comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding policies to help protect children's safety and welfare. They teach children how to keep themselves safe. For example, they provide them with age-appropriate leaflets and lessons to learn how to remain safe when using the internet.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff establish extremely positive partnerships with staff at other settings children also attend. For instance, they hold weekly discussions to set next steps in children's learning together. Staff expertly help prepare children for their eventual move to school. For instance, school children regularly visit the setting to share their stories and answer any questions younger children may have. Children are extremely independent and learn more complicated skills, such as doing up their shoelaces and ties. Staff are extremely good at extending children's ideas and interests. For example, when children are enthralled in a book about vegetables, they go on to cook vegetable soup. They learn about other items that may begin with the letter 'V' and staff organise the local violin class to come into the setting. Children visit the castle grounds and artefacts weekly to learn about history.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have outstanding opportunities to challenge their physical skills. They learn how to negotiate different ways to move with excellent confidence, including using stilts and stacking bricks, and using tyres to climb and balance on. Children learn about the importance of healthy eating in extraordinary ways. For example, they have an extremely active role in harvesting healthy produce such as peas, beans and leeks. Children have excellent opportunities to be creative. For instance, they squash picked blackberries to make tie-dye art.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress. Children are extremely confident to discuss percentages and fractions as they cut fruit. They have exceptionally good opportunities to complete extremely challenging activities that require incredible maturity. For example, children use real tools such as knives to engage in whittling activities and they excitedly explore wildlife as they are fascinated by pond dipping experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY295610
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10104237
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Chiddingstone Nursery School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522722
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2015
Telephone number	01892 871315

Chiddingstone Nursery School registered in 2004. It is located in the grounds of Chiddinstone Castle in Edenbridge, Kent. The setting is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm and on Friday from 9am to midday, term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs nine members of staff, six of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above. This includes one member of staff who has an early years degree at level 6.

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