

# Apples Nursery

Saga Pavillion, Enbrook Park, Sandgate High Street, Folkestone, Kent  
CT20 3SE



<b>Inspection date</b>	31 May 2019
Previous inspection date	29 April 2015

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b> Previous inspection:	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
		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

- The management team are highly ambitious and support staff in aiming for the highest quality education for all children. Managers are actively involved in the daily routine. They are excellent role models and inspire their team to be the best teachers they can.
- The nursery has a highly positive atmosphere as staff skilfully focus in on what sparks children's interests and plan the best possible environment to motivate their learning.
- Relationships throughout this nursery are strong and secure. Staff give babies lots of cuddles and reassurance. Toddlers seek support when needed and older children are extremely friendly. Children settle-in well and develop very strong social skills, which will stand them in good stead in their future lives.
- Valuing individuals lies at the heart of this highly stimulating nursery and outcomes for all children are extremely positive. The support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is superb. Staff ensure the environment is welcoming, stimulating and safe for all children. They provide the best possible opportunities for all children to make excellent progress in readiness for starting school.
- Managers and staff are extremely supportive to children and their families. They attend meetings with outside agencies and place the needs of children at the heart of what they do. Parents speak very highly of the support they receive. They comment on the excellent progress their children make because of the caring staff team.
- Children are exceptionally confident and are extremely enthusiastic to learn. They motivate one another by exchanging ideas and sharing the excellent range of toys and resources. Their positive self-esteem shows that they feel valued. For example, they tell staff that they have had an excellent idea and that they know the best way to try things. The strong culture of respect across this nursery is inspirational.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how the procedures for evaluating staff practice could be developed even further by using a wider range of approaches.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled planning and assessment records and a range of other documents.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff to consider their views on the nursery.
- The inspector held a management meeting with the nursery manager and deputy.

### Inspector

Linda du Preez

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are very clear about their responsibilities to keep children safe. They attend a range of training courses that enable them to develop excellent skills. For example, they attend training on new approaches for planning for children's learning. There have been other significant changes since the last inspection that demonstrate a continuous drive for excellence. For example, the outdoor forest area has been developed, which provides children with daily opportunities to learn in a natural environment. Managers have a sharp overview of the progress children make. They identify when groups of children need additional support and take proactive action to address this. For example, they adapt the outside area to create quiet and small spaces for younger children. Consequently, all children are equally included in the superb range of activities and all make excellent progress.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are talented teachers who inspire all children to have a go and try new things. There is an abundant range of activities within the nursery and in the outside areas, across all age groups. For example, babies delight in exploring the wide range of sensory toys and toddlers develop strong physical skills as they learn to climb, run and cycle. Staff take every opportunity to teach children in a natural, but intuitive way. For example, they identify when children are interested in specific stories and help them to build themed areas in the forest. They skilfully motivate children's imagination, incorporating mathematics and literacy at the same time. Children learn to count, measure and compare as they have fun. They delight in their ability to recognise words and have a go at forming letters. Therefore, they develop a range of highly valuable skills in readiness for starting school.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Safety is at the heart of activities and staff take every opportunity to teach children about their own well-being. For example, they teach children about safety and remind them of the purpose of safety rules. They balance this with providing opportunities for children to take safe risks. This approach is highly effective and benefits all children. For example, children climb low-level trees, but explain to visitors that they must know their own limits and stay safe. Staff are extremely caring towards children and their families and this results in a strong community feel across the nursery.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

Babies settle quickly due to the well-thought-out settling-in arrangements. They seek physical comfort from staff when needed and soon develop confidence to crawl off and explore. Toddlers are very independent and learn to dress themselves and manage their cutlery at mealtimes. They share very well with one another and learn social skills from a young age. Older children are exceptionally confident and friendly. They bubble with enthusiasm to tell visitors about the activities they enjoy at the nursery. For example, they talk about their monthly visits to a local care home and the people they meet. The limitless opportunities for learning enable all children to make the best possible progress in their development. This provides an outstanding start to their education.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	126975
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	10108454
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	123
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	149
<b>Name of registered person</b>	SAGA Group Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP524295
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	29 April 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	01303 776300

Apples Nursery registered in 1998. The nursery is owned by Saga Group and caters exclusively for families employed by Saga Group. It is situated in Sandgate near Folkestone, Kent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 34 staff, of whom 29 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/user](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/user).

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

