

The Oaks Nursery

JARRETTS YARD CHURCH STREET, DISS, NORFOLK IP22 4DD



Inspection date

26 June 2019

Previous inspection date

4 October 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager has worked hard to improve the nursery since the last inspection. She has changed the layout of the room and the activities and resources available to provide children with an interesting indoor environment to help promote their curiosity and engagement.
- Staff place a strong focus on supporting children's personal, social and emotional development. They sensitively encourage children to discuss their feelings and those of others. For example, while reading the story of the 'Three Little Pigs', staff discuss with children how the pigs and wolf might feel.
- Children who speak English as an additional language are supported well within the nursery. The management team has introduced an assessment tool to help staff assess these children's communication and language skills more precisely and provide more targeted support.
- Children are developing the key skills to support their future learning and eventual move on to school. They are caring towards others and understand the need to share and take turns.
- The manager is passionate about ensuring children are emotionally secure. She is a very strong role model for staff and children. Her playful manner and skilful use of facial expressions and gestures help encourage children to be confident to share their views and opinions.
- The manager provides staff with feedback and support to help them improve their practice and performance. However, this is not always targeted at helping improve the quality of their teaching to a consistently high level.
- The outdoor area does not provide children with the same engaging and stimulating experiences as the indoor area. This means that children who prefer to learn outside are sometimes not fully motivated to learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for all staff to share practice and learn from each other to help develop teaching to a consistently high level
- enhance the range of opportunities and experiences available outdoors to fully extend the engagement and curiosity of children who prefer to play and learn outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outside and assessed the impact on children's learning. She spoke to children and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector met with the nursery manager and members of the management team.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector
Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are confident about the action to take to protect children and keep them safe from harm. All staff have attended safeguarding training at an appropriate level for their role. The manager sets scenarios at staff meetings to test their knowledge of indicators of possible signs of a child being exposed to extreme views. The management team follows robust recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure staff are safe and suitable to work with children. The manager seeks the views of parents to involve them in identifying further ways of improving the nursery. The manager tracks the progress of individuals and groups of children to help staff identify and target any emerging gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager leads by example and demonstrates high-quality teaching skills. She is animated and enthusiastic in her interactions with the children to engage and motivate their interest. The manager skilfully encourages children to solve simple problems for themselves. One example of this is when a small tepee falls over and the children ask her for help. She asks them what they need to do and helps them find their own way of fixing it. Staff have introduced more natural resources to the nursery and are trying to reduce the number of plastic toys available to extend children's sensory experiences. This has resulted in children taking great delight, for example, in exploring and experimenting with real fruit and vegetables in the role-play area. Staff respond to children's requests and involve them in choosing the resources they need to support their ideas, for example when they want to paint. Parents are involved in assessing children's starting points so that staff are able to build on what children already know and can do.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and well settled. They form close relationships with key staff. They go to their key person for comfort and support and enjoy snuggling up for a cuddle if they are tired. Staff sensitively remind children of the expected rules of behaviour. Children of different ages are cared for together in one room. Older children show kindness and consideration towards the needs of younger ones. The manager builds on children's enjoyment in choosing their favourite songs to ensure those with little spoken language are fully involved. Staff remind children to follow good hygiene routines and provide them with healthy meals and snacks. Parents are complimentary about the nursery. They particularly value its family feel and say their children 'love attending'.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop key skills to support their eventual move on to school. They are confident to share their views and to listen to those of others. Children are curious and use their imagination, for example when carrying out an animated telephone conversation in the role-play area. They are learning to count, and some older children understand the concept of 'more than' or 'less than'. Children develop pride in their achievements. For example, one child proudly shows staff that they have written the initial letter in their name for the first time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433777
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10081409
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900801
Date of previous inspection	4 October 2018
Telephone number	01379 651906

The Oaks Nursery registered in 2011 and is managed by Alpha Nurseries Ltd. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff, who all hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 3 to level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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