

Inspection of Dolphins Pre School

The Pavilion, Nevill Playing Fields, Off Eridge Road, Hove BN3 7QD

Inspection date: 26 November 2019

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The highly qualified, experienced and inspirational managers lead their passionate and dedicated staff team remarkably well. Together, they provide an exceptionally well-planned environment, with a highly impressive range of resources and activities available at all times. Children have limitless opportunities to explore, investigate and experience new things. For example, they take part in scientific experiments, learning about challenging concepts, such as expansion and contraction. Children make predictions, test out their ideas and learn complex new vocabulary as they explore the effects of ice, water and air in balloons. All children are extremely confident, inquisitive and motivated to learn. They delight in attempting new challenges and are highly eager to 'give things a go'. Children rapidly gain the skills needed to be fully prepared for school, when the time comes.

All staff are exceptionally supportive and attentive to every child's needs. They get to know children inside-out and build loving and trusting bonds with them. Their highly nurturing approach helps children to feel exceedingly happy, safe and secure. Staff cherish children's individual personalities and uniqueness and, in turn, children become incredibly self-assured and have great faith in their own abilities. Staff focus heavily on outdoor play and children have continuous opportunities to lead their own experiences, moving freely between the exciting indoor and outdoor environment.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The highly dedicated managers and staff team create a dynamic, diverse and ambitious curriculum. They fully ignite children's sense of awe and fascination of the world and maximise all opportunities for learning. Children benefit from inspiring experiences, such as growing and harvesting a huge range of fruit and vegetables throughout the year. They eagerly try new food, such as their pre-school-grown spinach, and proudly take home the produce of their hard work to share with their families.
- The managers are truly inspirational leaders. Their enthusiasm and commitment for improvement is reflected in all aspects of the setting. With staff, they meticulously reflect on practices, offer expert coaching and continuously improve experiences for all children. As a team, they have recently focused on encouraging children and families to walk to pre-school to further promote exercise, healthy lifestyles and road safety. Children very confidently demonstrate their knowledge, as they carefully use the zebra crossing to cross the racing track in the garden.
- The quality of teaching is exemplary. The managers and staff have an in-depth understanding of the progression of learning. They sequence children's experiences extremely skilfully to enable children to continuously build on what

they know and can do. For example, younger children learn to identify sounds as they clap out the syllables of words. Older children then trace letters with their fingers in sand, begin to write their name and blend sounds together to read simple words.

- There is a strong focus on incorporating music into children's experiences in enjoyable and innovative ways. Staff extremely skilfully integrate all areas of learning into a meticulously designed library of songs. Children sing with incredible confidence and join in enthusiastically with a huge range of songs, for example, as staff play classical music on the pre-school piano, or play reggae, pop music or nursery rhymes. Children show an excellent ability to learn and remember lyrics, understand rhythm and rhyme, and join in with actions. During the inspection, they eagerly practised an array of new songs they are learning for the upcoming Christmas performance. They showed highly impressive concentration, motivation and vocabulary.
- Staff are tremendous role models and children behave impeccably. They are consistently kind, thoughtful and respectful of all others and show great care and consideration for their friends. For example, when a younger child wanted to be a pilot in the role-play airport, older children eagerly helped them to find 'passengers' and start their journey. Children also learn to use the 'buddy bench' and how to notice when others may be feeling lonely or need some support. They actively look to include others in their play and show wonderful social skills, friendships and kindness.
- Staff provide parents with extensive support. They consistently share detailed information about children's learning and value all parent contributions highly. Parents are completely involved and engaged in their children's learning and are successfully supported to continue to develop children's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is at the heart of the pre-school's procedures and children's welfare is given high priority. The managers and staff have a thorough understanding of how to keep children safe. Recruitment procedures are robust and the managers ensure all staff are suitable for their roles, including on an ongoing basis. Staff receive extensive training to help them know when children might be at risk of harm, including discussing potential scenarios. They fully understand how to identify child protection concerns and how to report concerns. The environment is extremely safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130680
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10128691
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	53
Name of registered person	Gavan, Sheila Nigella
Registered person unique reference number	RP511797
Telephone number	01273 500 513
Date of previous inspection	7 January 2016

Information about this early years setting

Dolphins Pre School registered in 1994. It is located in a sports pavilion next to the Nevill Recreation Ground in Hove, Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.45am to 3pm during term time only. It receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 11 staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications between level 3 and level 7.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection activities

- The inspector was given a tour of the nursery by the managers and carried out a learning walk to discuss the curriculum.
- The managers and the inspector discussed the play activities and children's learning during the inspection and undertook a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector took into account the views and opinions of the staff, children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children's play and assessed the impact of staff teaching.
- The inspector sampled some of the setting's documentation, including staff suitability records.

We carried out this inspection 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.

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