

Inspection of Friends Forest Nursery Limited - Shere

Gomshall Lane, Shere GU5 9HE

Inspection date: 4 December 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children clearly enjoy their time at the nursery. They demonstrate they feel safe and secure in the staff's care. Children show high levels of independence. They serve their own meals, make choices and decisions and are confident to ask for help when needed.

All children benefit from remarkable outdoor learning experiences. They visit the local woodlands to take part in engaging and empowering forest school sessions and go for walks in the local area. Children also enjoy many indoor learning opportunities, such as exploring dough, making butter and enthusiastic music and movement sessions. Occasionally, however, staff do not make the best use of play opportunities to build on and challenge children's learning. This can, on occasion, hinder children from achieving the best possible outcomes.

Children enjoy spending time with their familiar adults. The highly effective 'comfort approach' used by staff helps children settle into the nursery with ease. Staff are caring and engaging play partners, although, at times, staff deployment is not totally effective. Occasionally, children are not fully engaged in play and learning.

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

- The new manager has clearly identified the strengths and weaknesses of her staff team. She has a highly focused plan in place to continually improve the quality of staff practice to the highest levels. The manager recognises that, at times, staff deployment does not always meet the learning needs of the children. She role models for staff and works alongside them in the nursery rooms to help support their practice. This helps to ensure staff are aware of where they need to be to support children's learning more effectively.
- Staff know the children in their care well. They understand what interests children and use this knowledge to plan exciting activities to support children's learning. Younger children are motivated to role play with their favourite toys by the inviting environments that staff set up. Older children pretend they are flying to space. Staff ask children to write passenger lists, which encourages children's early writing skills.
- Staff provide children with many opportunities to develop their physical good health. They lead lively 'wake up and shake up' sessions and play energetic games. Staff encourage children to persevere as they use tweezers to extract hidden resources from dough and peg items on tree branches. The nursery chef provides nutritious meals and snacks for all children in the nursery. Children's physical development is supported effectively.
- The staff place high importance on teaching children about their feelings and

behaviour. Staff are positive role models for children. They swiftly step in to help children settle any disputes and recognise feelings in other children. Children behave well.

- Staff provided exciting and engaging activities that invite children to play and learn. Younger children take delight in hunting for items in sand. They enjoy pouring coloured water into different-sized containers, which helps build early mathematical skills. Older children design farms. Although staff enthusiastically play alongside children, they do not always use teaching opportunities, that arise as children play, to extend children's learning.
- Staff lead engaging song times and storytelling sessions in the nursery. They encourage children to develop a love of reading. Children borrow books from the nursery to take home and share with their parents. Staff take children to visit the local library and choose books to share with their friends. Parents report that staff communicate with them effectively, and they know what their children are learning at nursery.
- Staff build effective partnerships with other professionals and settings involved with children. This helps to ensure high levels of continuity for children's care and learning.
- The manager asks parents for their feedback about the nursery. She has introduced new initiatives to the nursery to increase the involvement parents have in their children's time at nursery. For instance, parents recently attended a Christmas dinner with their children and visited the forest school fire circle on Bonfire Night. Parents say they are very happy with the support and care their children receive from the staff.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are fully aware of their responsibility to promote children's well-being at all times. They know the actions to follow if they have any concerns about children's welfare. The manager ensures staff attend training to keep their knowledge current. She follows a safe recruitment process and ensures staff are suitable to work with children. Staff teach children to identify any hazards in their learning environment and consider ways to manage their own safety. Staff ensure the premises are secure and clean for children to play and learn in.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make the most of all teaching opportunities that arise as children play to support and extend their learning even further
- review staff deployment to ensure that all children have highly challenging play and learning opportunities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY554025
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10130917
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 to 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	ICP Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP538317
Telephone number	01483 202715
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Friends Forest Nursery Limited - Shere registered in 2017. The nursery is located in Shere, Surrey. It opens from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The nursery employs 13 staff, of whom 10 are qualified at level 3 and above. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emma Dean

Inspection activities

- The manager and staff led the inspector on a learning walk to explain how the nursery is set up to support children's care and learning.
- The manager and inspector completed joint observations of the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector watched the staff and children as they played. She listened to their conversations and spoke to them at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents available on the day of inspection and listened to their views.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including evidence of suitability checks.

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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