

Inspection of Barnardiston Hall

Barnardiston Hall, Barnardiston, Nr Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7TG

Inspection date: 17 May 2021

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 are curious and happily investigate their surroundings. They benefit from plenty of opportunities to explore outdoor play and aspects of the natural world. For example, toddlers enjoy using magnifying glasses to look closely at the woodlouse they find under the outdoor mats. They begin to use simple mathematical language as they compare and talk about the length of two worms.

In the main, children experience a broad curriculum which reflects the high expectations staff have for their learning. The youngest children show great levels of enthusiasm and enjoyment as they join in with daily singing activities. They practise and refine their early speaking skills while repeating the words they hear in songs they already know well.

From a young age, children are skilfully supported to feel safe in expressing their emotions. They intuitively notice when others are upset and often look to comfort them with a smile or cuddle. This reflects the nurturing support they receive from their key person and shows that they form very secure emotional bonds. Toddlers respond well to the positive boundaries set by staff. They show growing levels of self-control when learning to share toys and follow safety rules.

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

- Several children have attended the nursery throughout the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The nursery manager and staff have worked hard to adapt and continue to make sure children's health and emotional well-being are a priority. Children benefit from the effective actions put in place to protect them, including increased handwashing and social distancing when appropriate.
- Since the last inspection, the nursery manager has successfully led staff to review and improve the quality of education. Staff work hard to make sure that the resources and interactions are carefully matched to children's interests and learning needs. Overall, staff are clear on what they intend for children to learn. They explain that they offer plenty of everyday resources to help inspire children's curiosity and learning across the curriculum.
- Skilled support from staff helps children to embrace new experiences, including children who are less confident. Staff offer reassurance and demonstrate tasks to help children understand what will happen if they have a go. For example, children are encouraged to touch the ice gradually before staff demonstrate how to use it to make marks on paper. With this gentle encouragement, children eagerly get involved and enjoy practising their finer physical skills.
- Staff make effective use of observation and assessment. This helps them to identify when gaps are emerging in children's learning. For example, they plan purposeful opportunities for toddlers to make more rapid progress in their

personal development. This includes a strong focus on working in partnership with parents to support children with learning to use the toilet.

- Carefully tailored intervention is provided for children who have specific medical and dietary needs. Staff continuously exchange information with parents and healthcare professionals. This helps to ensure the care and support provided are precisely matched to children's individual and changing needs.
- Overall, staff support children's growing awareness of diversity in society. They plan some interesting activities for children to explore traditional fabrics and foods from around the world. However, they do not fully consider how younger children can develop an early awareness of similarities and differences in more meaningful ways.
- The well-qualified staff are led effectively by the nursery manager and morale is strong among the team. They welcome opportunities to get together to discuss and evaluate the effectiveness of their practice. All staff have regular meetings with the nursery manager. These provide valuable opportunities for staff to discuss their own performance and review the ambitious plans for their professional development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Regular child protection training helps all staff to quickly recognise when a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect. Staff are mindful to understand and consider how the COVID-19 pandemic may have had a negative impact on the welfare of some children and families. The nursery manager is knowledgeable about the agencies to contact if there are concerns about a child or if an allegation is made against a member of staff. Staff ensure they pass useful information on to parents to further protect children. This includes guidance sessions to help parents to ensure their children access online activities safely.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to develop meaningful opportunities for younger children to begin to explore similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY356342
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10194986
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 1
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Barnardiston Hall Preparatory School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904597
Telephone number	01440 786 316
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Barnardiston Hall registered in 2007. The nursery operates from purpose-built premises within the grounds of Barnardiston Hall Preparatory School. There are 10 members of childcare staff who work in the nursery. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are offered from 7am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Clements

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The nursery manager and the inspector completed a tour of the nursery and discussed how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of interactions during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The staff and children spoke to the inspector at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Parents shared their views with the inspector in discussion and the inspector took these into account.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of all adults working at the nursery.

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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