

Inspection of Bee In The Woods Kindergarten

Foredown Woods, Foredown Allotments, Thornbush Crescent, Portslade, Brighton
BN41 2GW

Inspection date: 16 November 2021

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thrive in the incredibly inspiring and nurturing kindergarten, which is set completely outdoors in an adventurous woodland site. Children's love and curiosity of nature are ignited and used to spark an enormous amount of learning, investigation and discovery. For example, children learn about the cycle of 'farm to plate' as they grow, harvest and cook their own vegetables. Children explore the scents and textures of herbs and plants in their play, for example when making 'medicine' and 'potions' with blackberries and rosemary.

Children develop a vast knowledge of nature, safety and risks as they excitedly explore their surroundings. They confidently discuss the rules in place to keep them safe and regulate their own behaviour extremely well. For example, children know that they can climb trees, but only to the height of the staff so they can be helped down if needed. They learn to test the strength of branches before putting their weight on them, and they recite rules such as not to 'pick or lick' the red berries as they are poisonous. Children develop a great thirst for learning, which helps them to become exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their education.

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

- The inspirational manager and her highly qualified, experienced and passionate staff work together seamlessly. During in-depth weekly meetings, they discuss children's development, interests and individual learning styles in meticulous detail. They use this deep understanding to plan and provide a remarkably diverse and challenging curriculum designed to help all children achieve their full potential.
- Key curriculum threads, such as sustainability, curiosity, nature, togetherness and community are at the heart of the setting and children's experiences. For example, children compost their leftover food and learn how this provides food for insects and minerals for the soil. They explore woodland seasonal changes every day and discover new creatures, such as a dog fish, during weekly beach school sessions.
- Children thrive on the community feel of the kindergarten and develop immense confidence, knowing that they are cherished and their ideas are valued. They speak eagerly during 'together times', listen to the views of others and share their own thoughts. Children are extremely kind, respectful and well-behaved, and staff support these qualities with warmth and understanding. For example, they use a 'bucket full of kindness' to store and celebrate children's positive acts throughout the day.
- Staff are exceptional teachers and have the highest expectations of every child. They make expert use of both spontaneous learning opportunities and planned activities. During the inspection, children excitedly celebrated 'nursery rhyme

week' and used a map to follow a trail, solving clues to identify 10 hidden rhymes. They showed a broad vocabulary, excellent memory and an eagerness to learn new words and their meaning. Children continuously describe what they see and find in the woodlands. Communication is at the heart of their learning.

- Children develop high levels of perseverance and problem-solving skills. For example, when a child wanted to get a dinosaur toy down from a tree, they kept trying until they succeeded. First, they got a crate to stand on, but when they still could not reach, they found a fallen branch to swing at the toy. The child then celebrated with other children and staff who were watching and showed an immense sense of pride.
- The ambitious manager and her deputy provide staff with inspirational coaching and training to continue to develop their skills to the highest levels. Staff feel completely supported and are encouraged to further their qualifications. This helps to create a hive of skill and knowledge sharing. Staff provide parents with extensive support. Parents are completely involved and engaged in their children's learning. They show overwhelming support and praise for the kindergarten.
- Children develop excellent physical skills. They climb trees and use rope ladders with great confidence. They use tools, such as hammers and saws, skilfully to make wooden models. Children are extremely independent, motivated and keen to do things for themselves. They count, understand quantities and recognise numbers confidently. Children develop a love of books and storytelling and are highly imaginative in their play.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff update their safeguarding knowledge continually through training, discussion and staff meetings. They regularly discuss wider safeguarding issues and potential safeguarding scenarios to strengthen their knowledge further. Staff very confidently know the signs that indicate a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect and the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's well-being. They have an excellent understanding of wider safeguarding issues, such as protecting children from extreme views. Staff teach children to identify and manage risks. Children have a great understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY557571
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10175231
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 at time of inspection	2 to 7
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Collins, Lucy Elizabeth Owen
Registered person unique reference number	RP557570
Telephone number	07880 727679
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Bee in the Woods Kindergarten registered in 2018. It operates in Foredown Woods in Portslade, East Sussex. The setting opens each weekday between 8.30am and 3.30pm. Holiday clubs operate during the school holidays. There are nine members of staff, seven of whom hold qualified teacher status and one holds early years teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Ben Parsons

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 manager and has taken that into account in his evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager to discuss the kindergarten's curriculum intent.
- The views and opinions of the children, staff and parents were taken into account during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and jointly assessed the impact this has on children's learning and personal development with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents, 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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