

Inspection of The Rowans Pre-School

THE ROWANS AND SYCAMORES CHILDRENS CENTRE, Pondmoor Road, Bracknell
RG12 7JZ

Inspection date: 20 June 2022

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

Children are extremely happy and excited when they come into this excellent pre-school. They eagerly ask the staff what they will be learning today. They have exceptionally warm, secure relationships with other children and staff, which helps give them a deep sense of belonging. Children enthusiastically share their family books with staff and talk fondly of their close family and friends, whose pictures are inside.

Children's imaginations are marvellous. They role-play going on an aeroplane to Canada, confidently showing where this is to adults on a globe. Through staff's high-quality interactions, new vocabulary and concepts are explored. For instance, children talk passionately about being the pilot who flies the plane and the passport control where they check the passengers.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They have extremely positive attitudes to play with high levels of concentration. Outside they work together amazingly well, passing buckets of water along the line to make water run down the hill. They share their own ideas and take turns brilliantly to make the 'water snake' longer.

All children are incredibly independent. They develop an excellent sense of character by taking part in a rich set of highly stimulating and interesting experiences. For instance, they make their own passports and look in mirrors, talking about what they look like. Children speak confidently to staff about their 'mummies' and 'daddies' and what countries they come from.

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

- Leaders are highly ambitious for children's development. Children are at the centre of the curriculum, and key persons expertly adapt their teaching to individual children's learning. For example, children enjoy playing with the sink or float game for long periods of time. They are thrilled to see that when the boat gets 'heavy', it sinks to the bottom. Staff masterfully extend this by encouraging children to use their critical thinking skills and find their own 'boats' in the room that will float well. The children choose to gather plastic tubs from the recycle area to try, instead of cardboard boxes.
- Staff plan extremely high-quality experiences that successfully build on children's knowledge over time. Staff note that children have recently been on holiday or are going soon, so they set up a role-play aeroplane to extend and embed learning. Staff and children pretend they are on holiday, getting 'ice creams', packing their real suitcases with sun cream and goggles and wheeling them outside to the 'swimming pool'. Children's creativity, ideas and understanding of the world are impressive.

- The very experienced, well-qualified staff team devise highly focused, effective individual plans for children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This ensures all children are making the best possible progress and are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Parents are thankful to staff and leaders for the positive impact they have had on their child's development and well-being. Many children have siblings who previously attended the pre-school, and parents say that communication and individualised support for children is amazing. Parents report that children are well prepared for school. For instance, parents explain proudly that children were able to do 'tally' charts to count to high numbers how many times they run the track at pre-school.
- Staff receive highly focused and effective training. They hold monthly group reflection meetings where they evaluate practice together. Staff explain that communication and language are key to children's learning, and staff have had in-depth training to support all children. For example, they used filmed sessions and feedback from leaders to significantly enhance the language they use with children of different abilities.
- Leaders have warm-hearted relationships with staff. They offer meaningful engagement consistently and staff talk highly of this. Staff say that they are supported in their well-being and praise leaders for their ongoing support for their further training and development.
- Children thrive in an environment where a love of learning is shared by everyone. They show exceptional confidence and great concentration in activities. For example, they make passports by drawing their own picture, finding and writing their own names and adding the flag that represents their nationality.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Recruitment and induction procedures are robust and ensure the suitability of staff. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of safeguarding issues such as whistle-blowing. They know what to do if they have concerns and how to report allegations about staff. They are alert to signs that may indicate children may be at risk, for example if a child was at risk of neglect. Risk assessments are used effectively, resulting in a safe and secure environment. No person can gain access to the site without staff being present, which helps keep children safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478999
Local authority	Bracknell Forest
Inspection number	10128756
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Rectory Lane Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532391
Telephone number	0776 583 7723
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2016

Information about this early years setting

The Rowans Pre-School registered in 2014. It operates in the grounds of Fox Hill primary school, in Bracknell, Berkshire. The pre-school is open between 9am and midday and 12.00pm and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. There are five staff who work with the children, three of whom hold recognised childcare qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Mandy Cooper

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 manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at pre-school.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.

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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