

# Inspection of Next Step Nursery

Church Street, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 5JZ

---

Inspection date: 21 October 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

Good

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is outstanding**

Children arrive at the setting and are warmly welcomed by the friendly staff team. They are extremely eager to see what learning opportunities await them. The manager has precisely considered ways to ensure children master the skills they need to be independent. All children show an extremely strong sense of belonging within the setting. They understand what is expected of them and are tremendously confident. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They demonstrate high levels of engagement and concentration. Children develop a secure understanding of mathematics. For instance, as they make shapes with dough, they intuitively count and talk about the different-sized pieces. Children's views and opinions are respected by staff, who encourage children to share their thoughts. For instance, staff reflect on the morning with the children, asking them what they have enjoyed. Staff explain to children that we all have different preferences that make us unique and individual.

Children flourish in the stimulating learning environment. They learn about the world around them during their topic, 'Around the world in 80 days'. Children join in the extremely well-planned activities on the celebration of Diwali. For example, they excitedly experiment with clay as they create their own Diya lamps. They competently use descriptive language to talk about how the clay feels. Children relish taking part in new experiences. They play imaginatively with boxes, giggling as they hide inside them and build huge towers. Staff implement a highly ambitious curriculum. They expertly consider every opportunity throughout the day to extend and challenge children's thinking. This leads to children making outstanding progress.

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

- The manager is an inspiring and passionate leader. She is highly committed to the continuous development of the setting. The manager shares her vision with her competent staff team and, together, they strive for the best outcomes for all children. The team members have high aspirations for what they want children to learn and provide an exceptional level of teaching across all areas of the curriculum.
- The manager and staff are highly successful at helping children build an understanding of families, community and diversity. As well as celebrating different festivals, they participate in a wide range of community activities. For example, they visit the village museum to view the exhibitions. Children learn about different families beyond their own experience. For instance, on international family day, parents are invited in to read to children in their home language and teach children about their culture.
- Parent partnerships are exemplary. Parents are regularly welcomed into the

setting for 'breakfast mornings'. This provides them with a chance to see the learning that is taking place in the setting and to speak to their child's key person. Parents are invited on outings with the nursery, helping them to feel included in their child's education. Staff also have strong links with local primary schools and other early years settings.

- All children receive exceptionally high levels of support. Staff swiftly identify any gaps in children's learning and development. They go to great lengths to ensure that children reach their full potential. Staff consider the needs of the different age groups they care for and adapt their provision accordingly. Staff complete specific training to enhance the support that they provide to individual children. They work with other professionals extremely well.
- Children are eager to sit on the carpet and listen attentively to stories and songs. The highly trained nursery dog, Dennis, joins them every time. Children stroke him while singing songs, and it is evident how much they adore him. Staff provide a wide range of books for children to access in the unique, colour-coded library. Children select from non-fiction, fiction and real-life books, helping children to foster a love of reading. Children's communication and language skills develop rapidly.
- Staff engage children in meaningful conversation to teach them about healthy lifestyles. For example, when going out for a walk, they explain to children how fresh air is good for their lungs and how walking is good exercise. Children learn where food comes from. They regularly visit the nearby allotment and apple orchard. Children are involved in collecting the apples that are sent off and turned into juice that is later sold to the families. Children have a comprehensive understanding of the process and enjoy recalling their knowledge.
- Children have exceptionally positive attitudes. They show immense pride in their work and are keen to share their creations, such as when they use coloured powder to make Rangoli art. Children develop incredible self-help skills that help to prepare them very well for the next stage in their education. For example, they pour their own drinks and open their lunches independently.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff prioritise the safety and well-being of the children they care for. All staff have a strong understanding of safeguarding. They are fully aware of what to do if they have a concern about a child and understand the local safeguarding procedures to follow. They complete regular safeguarding training to maintain their understanding of how to recognise possible signs of abuse. The manager has a secure knowledge of recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. She monitors their ongoing suitability well. Staff keep children safe on outings through robust procedures and vigorous risk assessment. For example, all children hold on to a rope, and they walk with one staff member at the front and one at the back.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	113612
<b>Local authority</b>	West Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	10234075
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	2 to 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	28
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	24
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Beales, Janet
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP512047
<b>Telephone number</b>	01444 455233
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	8 March 2017

## Information about this early years setting

Next Step Nursery registered in 1993. It operates in Cuckfield, West Sussex. The pre-school is open between 9.15am and 3.30pm, each weekday, during term time only. The setting employs five staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualification at level 2 or above. The setting receives funding for the provision of funded early education for children aged two, three and four years.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Jade Orosz

## 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 joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a planned activity.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2022