

Inspection of Pumpkin Patch

109 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4BD

Inspection date: 25 October 2023

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 settle exceptionally well. There is a highly effective key-person approach, enabling children to make excellent bonds with staff. Babies learn to use simple signing to help them communicate, even at such a young age. They independently use their knowledge to make the signs for please and thank you when they have snack. Staff readily praise children for their early communications and model further signs to help babies know what is happening next. This enables even the youngest children to share their desires. Staff always remain extremely calm and encourage children to learn to complete tasks for themselves. They are superb role models, suggesting to children that they become helpers, where staff demonstrate tasks.

Managers devise exceptionally unique learning environments and experiences that are ambitious for all children. Leaders and staff build a community approach which is inclusive to all, creating an inspiring curriculum where children thrive. Staff are completely respectful of children, always asking them if they would like help. This enables children to learn to make decisions and understand that staff completely value their views. It also enables staff to demonstrate tasks and encourage children to have a go themselves. Children persist at their chosen task, even from a very young age. Babies show great determination in putting on their own wellington boots in readiness for outdoor play. Toddlers help each other and try and try again to put on their shoes.

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

- The provider invests in her staff team, building an inspirational place to work, where staff pursue their passion for the early years. The staff team are committed and dedicated to enabling the young children who attend to make the greatest possible start in life. There is an exceptional focus on staff's well-being and ensuring that staff feel valued and part of a team. Staff comment on how the nursery is a 'really lovely and happy place to work'.
- Managers are extremely reflective and are constantly seeking ways to improve and evolve. They are extremely knowledgeable about the children and their families and ensure that this approach transcends to the team. The manager has an excellent working knowledge of how to observe and assess staff practice. This allows them to make highly effective changes to enable children to gain the most learning from the wealth of experiences.
- Staff know the children exceptionally well. They have an in-depth knowledge of what children know, understand and can do. Staff have an excellent knowledge of child development and use this to plan innovative and inspiring experiences for children. These experiences incorporate children's next steps in learning and also their current interests. This enables children to become completely engaged

and immersed in their play and learning.

- Staff have an excellent understanding of the fact that learning has a sequence. They support babies to drink from an open cup, moving them on from a spouted beaker. Older babies begin to serve themselves at mealtimes, and the two-year-olds do this independently. This excellent approach to learning enables children to be very independent at the earliest opportunity.
- Children have countless innovate opportunities to be creative and explore their senses. Staff skilfully incorporate what children need to learn next into their planning. For example, following making pompoms, staff noticed that children struggled with the winding action, so they used wool and other textural resources to decorate a three-dimensional tree. They practised the large-muscle skill needed to wind the fabric around.
- All children have daily assemblies where they explore what is on offer and review their experiences. This even includes the babies, where they sing about who is attending in children's home languages, and each baby self-registers their attendance. This enables all children, no matter how young, to be exceptionally well included and develop excellent communication and language skills.
- Staff work tirelessly to ensure that children have a voice. Children learn about democracy and making choices. Staff ask babies to vote if they would like a story or song using a prop. Some children use their words to indicate, while others point, and staff recognise the youngest babies' eye gaze to help decide on the vote.
- Parents speak extremely positively about the nursery, stating that 'staff are amazing' and 'you couldn't find a better nursery'. Parents receive daily verbal feedback and also access the online system for more detailed information about their child's learning and development. Parents talked about the exceptional speaking development and how sociable their children have become since attending.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is exceptional. The special educational needs coordinator has an excellent understanding of her role. She has an excellent knowledge of each child's needs and how best to support them and their families. This enables all children to flourish.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff, including the designated safeguarding leads, have an excellent knowledge of child protection and their roles in keeping children safe. Even staff new to the setting and to early years receive immediate training. This ensures that they understand how to make a prompt referral to the correct professionals if they have any concerns about a child or adult. Children show an excellent awareness of their safety. For example, older babies know to hold onto the handrails on the indoor climbing equipment. They jump down the steps with two feet together, showing immense physical skills and how to keep themselves safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY234878
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10313131
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 3
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	80
Name of registered person	O'Hara, Anita Dawn
Registered person unique reference number	RP513552
Telephone number	01273 227000
Date of previous inspection	5 September 2018

Information about this early years setting

Pumpkin Patch registered in 2003. It is located in Hove, East Sussex, providing care for children from six months to three years. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. The provider receives funding to provide early education for children aged two and three years. The nursery employs 25 members of staff, 20 of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or above. This includes three members of staff who have a relevant level 6 qualification and two members of staff who have early years teacher status. The nursery adopts the Reggio Emilia approach.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Helen Penticost

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 managers and inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspectors spoke with staff and interacted with children.
- Parents shared their views about the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.

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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