

Acorns Nursery School

Shackleford Village Hall, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 6AE



Inspection date	10 July 2015
Previous inspection date	12 October 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching across the setting is outstanding. Staff interact with children excellently, which contributes to children being highly motivated and fully engaged in their play and learning. Consequently, children make significant progress from their starting points and are very well prepared for school.
- Well qualified and knowledgeable staff complete rigorous assessments, and planning is sharply focused on every child's needs. They use a wide range of questions, and ensure children have time to think and respond. Consequently, children are motivated to become very active learners and to develop good thought processes.
- Children are supported to settle well in the caring and exceptionally supportive environment. Praise and encouragement are offered at every opportunity to support children's emotional well-being. They develop high levels of confidence and independence that allow them to eagerly play and explore.
- Children develop excellent early-reading and early-writing skills. Staff provide focused teaching and a rich learning environment to help children link letters to sounds, recognise and write their names and understand rhyming words, during the day.
- Resources are generally plentiful and extremely well thought-out to enrich children's learning, although there are fewer resources readily available to increase children's awareness of technology.
- All children behave exceptionally well. Staff use excellent methods to manage their behaviour and apply rules and boundaries consistently and sensitively.
- The inspirational and highly motivated leader and staff continually reflect on, and review, all areas of the provision and practice. They drive improvements in the pursuit of excellence, enhancing the extremely good outcomes for children even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore further ways of promoting children's use of technology, to enhance their skills in this area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, inside and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery leader.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery leader and looked at relevant documentation, such as a range of children's records, planning and evaluation documentation, and the information exchanged with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector reviewed documents and procedures relating to safeguarding and checked a selection of other policies.

Inspector

Simon Hobbs

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff have an extensive knowledge of how children learn and provide an outstanding range of learning opportunities. They consistently encourage children so that they become confident, want to do well and persevere. For example, children become absorbed in role play, making a car using large wooden blocks and driving it. Children are provided with an enriching range of activities, which promote their communication and literacy skills. They enjoy singing songs and repeating well-known phrases from their favourite stories to build on these. Self-registration name cards provide children with regular opportunities to practise recognising their names, and are an aid to help children copy from when they are learning to write. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are extremely well supported by staff who have an expert understanding of their individual needs. This all results in children being exceptionally well prepared for their next stage in learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children are enthusiastic, settled and display high levels of self-esteem. Children form warm and trusting relationships with all staff and readily seek them out for comfort when needed. Staff follow excellent practices and procedures to support children's health, which promote their emotional and physical well-being extremely well. Children develop independence skills as they choose their snacks and successfully pour their own drinks. Staff encourage discussions about foods that are healthy and those that are not. Children enjoy daily outdoor play, and benefit from fresh air and exercise. Consequently, children are developing a very secure understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The nursery leader demonstrates an excellent understanding of her responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She closely monitors the educational programme, which ensures that activities are always motivating and children make excellent progress. There is a rigorous programme of staff supervision and performance monitoring. In addition, targeted staff training means that practice continually improves, ensuring children's learning experiences are of an exceptionally high quality. Meticulous safeguarding procedures are implemented by the staff who place the utmost importance on ensuring children are extremely safe and secure at all times. The views of all children and parents are carefully recorded to provide an inclusive action plan to further improve the already impressive provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY231141
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	837086
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	Acorns Nursery School Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2010
Telephone number	01483 426437

Acorns Nursery School registered in 2003 and is a committee-run group. It is located in Shackleford Village Hall, near Godalming in Surrey. The nursery is open each weekday from 9am until 2.45pm, each weekday during term time only. The nursery employs 10 members of staff; of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications, including three who hold Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who are learning English as an additional language.

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