

Downside Nursery

The Old School Room, Downside Road, Downside, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3NA



Inspection date	26 February 2016
Previous inspection date	18 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Management and staff have an excellent awareness of how young children learn. They use this knowledge to successfully challenge and inspire all children to learn, enabling them to make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. Children are extremely well prepared for school.
- Children are extremely well behaved, polite and cooperative, and show high levels of concentration during their play.
- Staff establish excellent relationships and highly successful information sharing with parents, other agencies and local schools. Parents are actively involved in the assessing and planning for their children's progress, providing seamless continuity in their learning.
- Self-evaluation is outstanding. The manager constantly seeks, evaluates and acts on the views of parents, staff and children to drive continuous improvement.
- Staff are well qualified and use excellent teaching skills to inspire children's learning. They make highly accurate assessments of children's progress, which are used to inform planning and provide rich, varied and imaginative experiences across all areas of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of all opportunities to develop younger children's independence skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspection took the views of parents into consideration.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the provider at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation, and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plans.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the provider.

Inspector

Joanne Allen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding issues and are extremely alert to any changes in children's welfare. Staff are well versed in the procedures to follow in reporting any concerns. The provider is driven and dedicated to her role. She demonstrates very high expectations of the well-trained staff team and provides highly effective systems of support and performance management to maintain the very highest standards. Senior staff skilfully monitor the educational programme to ensure that it meets each child's needs, and precisely measure the progress of different groups and abilities of children to promptly address any gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff enthusiastically plan relevant, stimulating activities linked directly to the interests and specific learning needs of each child. They are extremely skilled at targeting support for any children that need extra help. Children relish taking part in exciting activities, such as regular drama lessons and visiting a butterfly house. They also enjoy weekly French lessons and explain how to say 'hello', 'goodbye' and to ask someone's name in French. Staff constantly praise children for their inventive ideas and contributions. This helps children to become extremely confident learners. On rare occasions, staff miss some opportunities to encourage younger children to do things themselves, such as giving them pre-cut shapes instead of encouraging them to cut their own. Following a review, staff have adapted the environment exceptionally well to provide superb, easily accessible learning opportunities. For example, children use the outdoor courtyard all year round for digging, building and planting activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff prioritise children's well-being. The highly effective key-person system helps to ensure children settle well and are very content. Children show a very strong sense of themselves, relishing in the opportunities to sing songs and share their views. Staff provide children with exciting opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, children use wooden planks and tyres to build a balance track and skilfully negotiate their way through the obstacle course they have built. Children have excellent first-hand opportunities to learn about their community. For example, they explain how they visited the village chapel to place a wreath to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress relative to their starting points. For example, children develop an excellent understanding of mathematics. They cut fruit into circular discs and compare these to the shape of the moon. They then compare them to a half moon, a full moon and a crescent moon.

Setting details

Unique reference number	122455
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	825291
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Krystyna Griffiths
Date of previous inspection	18 October 2011
Telephone number	01932 866556

Downside Nursery registered in 1986. The nursery is open on weekdays during term time from 9am (with an option of Breakfast Club from 8am) to 3.45pm. During the summer and Easter school holidays the setting is open from 9am to 1.30pm for children aged from two to seven years. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs eight staff; of these, one has Qualified Teacher Status, one has Early Years Professional Status and six hold appropriate qualifications from level 2 to level 3.

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