

Mulberry Corner Day Nursery



Mulberry Corner, Castle Lane, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 4PW

Inspection date	30 July 2015
Previous inspection date	16 February 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Leadership is outstanding. Staff are extremely well deployed and work very effectively as a team to ensure children of all ages thrive in this stimulating, nurturing and very well resourced nursery.
- Teaching is exceptional because the well-qualified and experienced staff provide a rich range of experiences that meet children's individual learning needs. They understand how children learn and expertly build their enthusiasm for learning.
- All children make rapid progress because staff make regular and precise assessments of their learning needs and carefully build on each child's next steps in learning.
- Children are very happy, settled and emotionally secure. This is because relationships are excellent and children form close bonds with their key person. Staff are kind and very attentive to each child's needs.
- Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff consistently praise children who make good choices and enable children to clearly understand expectations and boundaries.
- Staff keep children very safe. Excellent safeguarding procedures are well known by staff who place the utmost importance on ensuring these are implemented at all times.
- Partnerships with parents and others involved in children's care and learning are outstanding. Staff go the extra mile to initiate information sharing and to ensure children receive excellent support to meet their individual needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how to enrich opportunities for children to develop further their imaginations through role play, particularly for children who prefer to play outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in the nursery and pre-school areas, and the impact it has on children's learning, inside and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and reviewed the findings of the activity observed.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke with other staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning, evidence of suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector talked with some parents and asked them for their views.

Inspector

Eileen Chadwick

Inspection findings

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

Leaders and staff have high expectations of children and a precise understanding of the learning and development requirements. From the earliest days, staff encourage children to freely explore, experiment and discover. They skilfully develop children's communication, language and thinking skills. This promotes all children's confidence and rapid progress. The youngest children explore familiar toys and routines, such as teddies' and dolls' feeding, bathing and bedtimes, while older children solve more complex problems. For example, three- and four-year-olds work out how to move water from one area to another using containers, funnels and tubes, and find out how to make their toy cars move quickly down slopes. Staff skilfully adapt their approach and questioning according to the age, ability and interest of each child. Children love joining in with group activities, such as outdoor music and movement, keeping time using instruments. They learn to count and offer answers to simple calculations. Children develop a love of books, many recognise letters and the sounds they make, and are beginning to write their names.

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

Children settle readily because they respond very well to close supportive relationships with staff. Sensitive management of children's initial days at nursery and carefully considered information means staff are keenly aware of children's individual needs. Parents and staff develop a highly collaborative approach to children's care and learning. Children come to understand the need to eat healthily because staff explain why this is important at snack and lunchtimes. They encourage children to enjoy vegetables by helping them to grow their own produce. Children learn how to be safe. For example, they understand the need to wear sun hats and apply sun cream when playing outdoors in hot weather. Staff prepare them very well for their next stage in learning such as younger children's move to the integrated pre-school or older children's transfer to school.

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

The dedicated owner and managers are committed to delivering exceptional standards. High-quality practice is consistent across the nursery because of their very effective arrangements for staff recruitment, vetting, supervision and training. Robust procedures for checking the quality of practice help staff to know how to best use the rich resources to plan and promote excellent learning for each child. Parents' views are highly valued and inform plans for improvement. Parents are delighted with their children's development, saying the nursery is 'fantastic'. Robust self-evaluation accurately identifies how the nursery can improve even further. For example, leaders recognise there is a need to provide more opportunities to stimulate children's imaginative role play outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110088
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	824928
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	92
Name of provider	Winifred Denise Barry
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2010
Telephone number	023 80255170

Mulberry Corner Day Nursery registered in 1992. It is open from Monday to Friday, all year round, although it closes for bank holidays. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The owner works directly with the children and employs 14 members of childcare staff. One member of staff holds a relevant early years qualification at level 4 and all other staff hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for two, three and four-year-old children.

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