

Starlings Pre School

c/o Manor Field Infant School, Haydn Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG22 4DH



Inspection date

9 March 2017

Previous inspection date

19 January 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The provider is dedicated to her role and is an exemplary manager. She is highly successful in maintaining the highest levels of commitment from staff. There are excellent systems in place to support how staff evaluate their provision of care.
- The provider's policies, procedures and risk assessments are robust and significantly guide staff practice for supporting children's health, safety and well-being.
- Inspiringly competent staff use comprehensive practice to ensure they have an accurate assessment of children's starting points. They provide extremely interesting and challenging experiences that fully support children's learning. This includes, for example, sensory play that encourages coordination and muscle development for strengthening hand movement, to support emergent writing.
- Excellent partnerships with other professionals mean nurturing staff are confident to make early interventions to ensure any gaps in children's learning are closing quickly.
- Staff are skilled in ensuring children who speak other home languages develop strong communication skills. For example, children listen to 'voice boxes' prepared by parents so they can hear their home languages, and attend small listening groups.
- All children thrive at nursery and make rapid progress in all areas. They thoroughly enjoy their stimulating activities. Their behaviour is exemplary at all times. The quality of teaching is outstanding and means that children engage in learning incredibly well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further the different ways children already enjoy their learning and creativity outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children enjoying activities indoors and outside, and during their interactions with staff.
- The inspector spoke with staff to ascertain how they update their skills and knowledge.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager. They discussed how staff plan for children's learning and how they review and assess children's progress.
- The inspector sampled the provider's documentation and children's records.
- The inspector read and took into account the provider's self-evaluation form. She spoke to parents to discuss their views of the pre-school practice.

Inspector

Aileen Finan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider has comprehensive systems for recruitment and training. She has high aspirations for the highest level of staff development and interactions with children. Staff are extremely passionate about their roles and are proactive in developing their skills further. Training and further research has made an incredibly positive impact on the outcomes for children. For example, enthusiastic staff detail the great improvements made for encouraging boys inquisitiveness for literacy and in supporting learning for two-year-olds. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect children, including those who may be at risk from extreme behaviour or views.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Highly committed staff plan the environment meticulously. It offers a varied range of interesting and challenging experiences for children to enjoy. However, staff acknowledge that they could build on opportunities for children to be even more creative during their enjoyable play outdoors. Highly successful strategies engage parents to extend children's learning at home, such as through borrowing popular learning resources. Teaching is consistently of a very high standard. Accurate planning for children's next steps has a positive impact on the excellent progress children make. Parents articulate their support for the staff. They state that the facilities to share what and how children learn are efficient. This enables them to have an excellent understanding of their children's progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are highly skilled in supporting how children are motivated to join in with all their activities. They are warm and caring role models. They strengthen children's awareness of equality and diversity. They do this through the golden values embedded into the pre-school ethos and in learning about the beliefs of others. These include, diverse festivals and the giving and receiving of gifts. Caring staff nurture children's independence and communication during snack times; they encourage children to use sign language to make independent choices and understand healthy lifestyles.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children quickly reach their full potential and demonstrate an exceptional range of skills to support their readiness for future learning. They are extremely motivated to learn the concepts of 'growing'. For example they explore how seeds turn into flowers, but later perish with age or lack of water. Children are extremely attentive as they read with staff. They recall verses that thoroughly support how they identify colours. They are inquisitive as they experiment with ice and natural resources frozen within it, such as limes, lemons, herbs and flowers. Later, children lead their play with high levels of imagination to make 'soup' from the ingredients, deciding on suitable utensils for cooking.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110181
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1085701
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	81
Name of registered person	Starlings Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517972
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2015
Telephone number	07740715078

Starlings Pre-School registered in 1994. It is based in Basingstoke, Hampshire. The pre-school opens weekdays during school term times with morning, afternoon and all day sessions between 9am and 3pm. There is an optional lunch club. There are nine members of staff working with the children and all hold recognised childcare qualifications. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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