

Smarties Nursery

Cotton Lane, Cotton Edmunds, Chester, Cheshire, CH3 7PZ



Inspection date	17 December 2015
Previous inspection date	20 November 2009

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

- The owner has Qualified Teacher Status. She regularly models her outstanding practice, using highly effective communication to inspire staff. The owner expertly oversees the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn. They use a wide range of highly successful teaching strategies that ensures children make very rapid progress.
- Disabled children and those with special educational needs make excellent progress. Staff expertly identify, monitor and secure further support for these children.
- Partnerships with parents, other professionals and schools are exemplary. The management team regularly seeks the views of parents, children, staff and the local authority advisors. This helps to identify precise and sharply focussed targets that drive forward ongoing improvements that offer all children optimal challenge and support.
- Children's social and emotional development is supported exceptionally well. Staff enthusiastically use every interaction as an opportunity to build relationships and develop children's understanding and use of language. Children form secure emotional attachments with staff through an exceptionally effective key-person system and settling-in procedure.
- Exciting exploratory experiences are provided that encourage a multi-sensory approach to learning, increasing children's engagement and giving them a greater capacity for learning. Children investigate and explore the jelly, ice, paint, mud, sand and water. Children have excellent opportunities to develop their understanding of the world and their physical skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already exciting outdoor physical opportunities available, so that the older, more-able children experience an even higher level of physical challenge in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation.
- The inspectors completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manager, who is also the provider. They looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents and children spoken to on the day and from information included in the nursery's own parent survey.

Inspector

Linda Yates / Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are highly skilled at identifying and successfully minimising any potential risks to children. The owner successfully implements a highly comprehensive range of exemplary procedures and policies that support children's health, safety and well-being. The owner has an excellent understanding of any changes to the provision that must be notified to Ofsted. Staff receive regular individual support meetings where they can seek expert advice and discuss their future training requirements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children who need additional help to develop their communication skills are supported exceptionally well. Most staff have had training and are very confident in their use of signing with children, which promotes the use of actions to support the spoken word. Children in the pre-school room thoroughly enjoy the daily literacy sessions where they learn actions for each of the letter sounds. They are confident in naming and signing many of the letters sounds. Children are extremely confident and self-assured. They make their own choices and establish their own ideas as they rapidly learn new concepts and solve problems. Children's understanding of the natural world is promoted exceptionally well. They have regular opportunities to observe the pig, goat and chickens in the outdoor learning environment. Children experience exciting hands-on learning in a woodland environment, where they explore and use a wide range of tools. Children who speak English as an additional language are exceptionally well supported. Staff learn key words in the child's home language, and use these to expertly help children to communicate and to develop their use of English. Children are extremely well prepared for school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Meals and snacks provided for the children are extremely nutritious and balanced. Staff strongly promote outdoor learning and provide a wealth of stimulating learning opportunities for children outside. Babies, toddlers and older children play outdoors for extended periods throughout the day, even in the rain or when it is dark. Babies clamber and investigate as they crawl outside. Children have the opportunity to experience physical challenge and manage risks for themselves. They climb over, lift and manoeuvre the car tyres and use an extensive range of balancing and climbing equipment. There is the potential to develop the outdoor area further to provide a small group of older, more-able children with an even higher level of physical challenge in their play.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

There is a highly effective, structured approach to assessing children's development. This is applied to the whole group, key groups and individual children. All children, including those who are funded or who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs, make rapid progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305305
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	855093
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	93
Number of children on roll	144
Name of provider	Valerie Anne Silcock
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2009
Telephone number	01829 741608

Smarties Nursery was registered in 1989 and is privately owned. The nursery employs 36 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds Qualified Teacher Status, another holds Early Years Professional Status and a further member of staff holds Early Years Teacher Status. Of the remaining staff, six hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, one holds level 5, 16 hold level 3 and five hold level 2. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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