

Pumpkin Patch Nursery

37 Preston Drove, Brighton, BN1 6LA



Inspection date

21 June 2017

Previous inspection date

31 October 2013

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

- There are excellent partnerships with parents, and staff recognise the crucial part parents play in their children's learning and development. Parents are delighted with the detailed and frequent information they receive and the regular opportunities they have to contribute to their children's learning records.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are happy and have warm and trusting relationships with their key person. This helps to support their extremely high levels of self-confidence and sense of well-being.
- Children make excellent progress. The key person discusses children's starting points with parents. Key persons observe children frequently as they play, and they plan meticulously for their next steps in learning.
- The nursery staff have excellent relationships with other settings that children attend, including school. Comprehensive information is routinely shared about children's achievements and this helps to support the high level of consistency in their learning and development.
- Senior leaders in the nursery are highly ambitious. They constantly seek to improve their already excellent practice even further. For example, they seek out training and visit outstanding settings locally and internationally.
- Children are enthusiastic in their creative development. For example, they enjoy learning from the expertise of an artist who works with groups of children each day.

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 every opportunity to develop children's use and understanding of mathematical language.

Inspection activities

- The inspector examined a range of documents, including those relating to safeguarding children.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the staff and looked at children's learning and progress records.
- The inspector and the manager observed members of staff interacting with children and discussed their practice.
- The inspector read the self-evaluation report and looked at the nursery's website.
- The inspector spoke to a range of parents and children, and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jill Thewlis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The staff have a comprehensive understanding of how to keep children safe and securely know whom to inform if they have a concern about a child's safety or welfare. Senior leaders constantly evaluate their already excellent practice. Children's interests are at the forefront of planning and their views are listened to. Frequent monitoring of progress by senior leaders, key persons and other qualified staff highlights delays in learning, and staff take prompt action to close these gaps. Children who have special educational needs are provided for very effectively, as are those supported by additional funding. Senior leaders support the highly qualified staff extremely well, encouraging them to attend training and build on their already extensive knowledge and expertise.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The staff have an excellent understanding of how to stimulate and motivate children in their learning. Children have excellent opportunities to learn about the wider world. They hatched chickens from eggs, giggling with delight when they find them hiding under the hedge. Children make links between stories and their activities, excitedly finding snail trails and mini-beasts on logs. They have regular access to the forest and the beach where they have superb opportunities to explore the natural environment. Babies and the youngest children thoroughly enjoy playing in the sand. Staff strongly support the communication skills of all children, including the very youngest. For example, they use sign language and speak clearly. Staff recognise the need to build even more on children's use of mathematical language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Older children have an excellent understanding of routines, such as independently rolling up the mats after an exercise class and finding their shoes before going outside. There are many interesting opportunities for children to learn about other cultures in the world. For example, children are taught Spanish in the nursery and they learn about Spanish customs. Parents from other countries come to bake traditional dishes and read the stories from their homeland. Children from a young age are able to negotiate and take turns. They decide amicably who will have which resources as they prepare to act out a favourite story. Children have exceptionally strong relationships with their peers. They record how they have supported and been kind to new children on a 'friendship tree'.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education. This helps ensure babies' and children's moves within the nursery or to school are smooth. Children are confident, independent learners. Early reading skills are encouraged extremely well. Children enjoy stories and read them to their imaginary friends, pointing to the pictures as they turn the pages. They enjoy listening to stories, join in with repeated words and phrases and make comments about the events in the book. Younger children have many opportunities for mark making, such as using various tools on paper, in sand and mud.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY334466
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	1062000
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	60
Number of children on roll	126
Name of registered person	Anita Dawn O'Hara
Registered person unique reference number	RP513552
Date of previous inspection	31 October 2013
Telephone number	01273 554484

Pumpkin Patch Nursery registered in 2006. It operates from the ground and first floors of a converted house in Brighton, East Sussex. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Opening times are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two and three years. The nursery employs 26 staff. There are three staff who hold early years professional status or qualified teacher status, and 20 other members of staff hold qualifications at level 2 or above.

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