

The Oaks Nursery

Jarretts Yard, Church Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4DD



Inspection date

31 July 2015

Previous inspection date

8 February 2012

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

- Staff provide a wide range of rich, varied and imaginative educational activities that promote children's learning very effectively. All children reach a level of development typical for their age, with some exceeding expectations.
- Excellent teaching means that all children are extremely confident, self-assured and ready for school.
- All staff have consistently high expectations of learning and behaviour. They enthuse, engage and motivate children with their own passion and challenge.
- Assessment of children's abilities is rigorous and robust. Their progress is individually tracked very regularly and their rates of progress are significantly enhanced, as a result of identified extra support.
- Staff build very strong partnerships with children, parents and other professionals. This works exceedingly well and results in all children receiving first class support.
- Staff fully understand their role in safeguarding children. They provide a high quality nursery that is welcoming, safe and stimulating.
- Meticulous and effective self-evaluation and a clear vision that is understood by all staff leads to continuous improvement and the setting of aspirational targets.
- The highly motivated and driven management team lead with vigour and determination. All staff are extremely committed to providing challenging, unique and memorable learning experiences for all children daily.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use tracking data to look for trends as to strengths and areas of teaching and learning to develop, in terms of preparing future groups of children for school entry.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the managers and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff working within the setting, the provider's self-evaluation and a range of other documentation including risk assessments and policies.
- The inspector also took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Caroline Clarke

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a rich, stimulating and vibrant learning environment. Exciting and engaging activities meet children's needs and interests. Children keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, for example cutting with knives. Staff encourage children to be creative as they blow bubbles outdoors. They extend their thinking by talking about the rainbow colours, the sunlight and the shapes and sizes of the bubbles. Parents are incredibly involved in their children's learning because staff share ideas with them daily. Staff sit alongside children using language exceptionally well to help them learn and make rapid progress. Staff observe children very closely as they play, making accurate and detailed assessments and planning very carefully for their next steps in learning. Activities are planned specifically to close gaps in learning so all children make rapid and sustained progress in relation to their starting points. Children gain the skills they need for school because they are regularly challenged through purposeful play. The nursery does not monitor trends in its progress data so that future children can benefit from adaptations made to teaching and learning as a result. Staff support children as they explore, actively learn, create and think critically. Children communicate confidently.

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

Children's physical development and awareness of good health are priorities in this nursery. They enjoy very nutritious home-cooked meals, and experience fresh air and exercise daily. Staff organise some very challenging obstacle courses and physical games. These teach children coordination as well as mathematical concepts, such as the construction of three-dimensional shapes. Children behave exceptionally well, helping each other and taking turns. They develop their self-help skills as they put on their waterproofs and wellingtons to play outside. Staff encourage children to take risks as they ride vehicles in and out of obstacles. Excellent settling-in procedures ensure that children are exceptionally well-supported emotionally from the start and when they transfer to school.

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

The manager has a very secure understanding of her responsibilities. She implements a range of policies to support the work of the nursery extremely well. Children's progress is monitored rigorously ensuring that gaps in progress are rapidly identified and addressed. Strong partnerships with outside professionals and other providers mean that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good or better progress. Parents are very positive about the nursery and its leadership, stating how much progress their children have made. The highly qualified manager has a very clear understanding of what the nursery does well and how it can further improve. The dedicated staff team continually strive to improve outcomes for children. Regular staff observations ensure that best practice is developed across the nursery. Staff talk with enthusiasm and knowledge about new alphabet games they have been trained to use and the key areas for development on the nursery action plan.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433777
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	850228
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	62
Name of provider	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2012
Telephone number	01379 651906

The Oaks Nursery was first registered in 2011 and is in Diss, Norfolk. It is one of nine nurseries that are privately owned and managed by Alpha Nurseries Limited. The nursery is open each weekday all year round from 8am until 6pm. It employs eight members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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