

# The Acorns Nursery and Forest School



59 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 2JN

<b>Inspection date</b>	24 May 2019
Previous inspection date	25 April 2013

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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 inspirational owner values her exceptionally hard-working manager and staff enormously. She invests extensively in high-quality continued professional development and supervision and, together, they work as an extremely effective team. All staff regularly observe each other's practice and share their expertise, identifying and sharing their innovative ideas through highly reflective feedback.
- The owner, manager and staff build superb relationships with all children. Their wonderfully nurturing approach helps children to feel exceedingly happy, secure and settled. Staff value children's individuality extremely highly and are completely attentive to their every need. Children flourish and feel completely at home in the nursery.
- The manager and staff assess children's learning meticulously. They have extensive systems to help immediately identify any gaps in individual and groups of children's learning and offer further support. Staff ensure all children reach their full potential.
- Staff provide parents with extensive support and fully engage them in their children's learning. They send home continuous learning summaries for every child, suggesting inspiring activities to help parents support children's specific next steps in learning at home. Parent feedback is overwhelmingly positive about the 'superb quality of care'.
- The manager and staff provide an exceptionally well-planned environment, with a highly impressive range of exciting resources and activities available at all times. Children have limitless opportunities to explore, investigate and experience new things and make rapid progress from their developmental starting points.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the already excellent learning opportunities, to support children's early writing skills outdoors even further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions in relation to children's learning and progress.

**Inspector**  
Ben Parsons

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The extraordinarily passionate owner and manager work tirelessly to achieve the highest standards of care and learning. They value the views of each child, family, staff member and a variety of other professionals extremely highly. Together, they meticulously identify precise areas to improve even further, such as to develop children's excellent early writing opportunities outdoors. After extensive training and research, management and staff have greatly improved their understanding of children's behaviour and are exceptionally responsive to their own individual circumstances. They actively practise mindfulness with children, who take time to sit, think and listen as part of daily experiences. Safeguarding is effective. All staff receive high levels of training and have excellent, up-to-date understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

All practitioners ignite children's fascination with learning exceptionally well and use innovative strategies to encourage early literacy development. Parents work with staff to complete 'Acorns Alphabet' books, adding photographs of real-life events relating to letters, such as 'b for birthday'. Staff build on children's understanding continuously and, from the age of three, children begin sounding out and blending simple words with superb skill. Staff use their exemplary quality of teaching to build on children's interests and extend their learning continuously. For example, as children enthusiastically explore three-dimensional shapes, they notice that they look different to 'normal' shapes, comparing a cuboid to dice they use in games. Staff extend this even further, introducing complex shape names, such as 'rectangular prism', which children then use independently in their play.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely active and delight in exploring the wonderfully stimulating and adventurous garden. They master highly challenging climbing equipment with great perseverance and take the utmost care as they manoeuvre along monkey bars and slide down a fireman's pole. Other children watch on with fascination and cheer on their friends, showing excellent social skills and respect for others. Staff are superb role models and children behave fantastically well. They are extremely kind, helpful and mindful of the rules. Children talk with great confidence about the benefits of healthy food as they make pretend 'vegetable soup' with play dough. For example, they proudly talk about eating vegetables which have 'vitamins' to help them grow big and strong and have energy to run outside.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children are exceptionally confident, inquisitive and eager learners. They pay great attention to detail as they build complex structures, such as 'castles', which they make big enough to fit every child inside. Children of all ages communicate supremely well and express themselves with the utmost confidence. They recognise numerals to 20 and write words of importance with superb skill. All children show excellent physical development and rapidly gain the skills needed to thrive in their next stages in learning and school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	113349
<b>Local authority</b>	West Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	10104166
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	21
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	32
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Sussex Acorns Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP905716
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	25 April 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	01444 455081

The Acorns Nursery School registered in 1985. It uses the ground floor rooms of a house in Lindfield, West Sussex. The nursery is open five days a week from 9am to 3pm during school term times. There is a childminding service available from 8am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm for children who attend the nursery. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children age two, three and four years. There are five staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualification between level 2 and qualified teacher status.

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