

# The Acorn Nursery School



Cranleigh Infant School, Church Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8AR

<b>Inspection date</b>	1 July 2019
Previous inspection date	29 June 2015

<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 experienced leadership team is passionate about offering the highest quality care and an inclusive environment for children and their families. Leaders' meticulous self-evaluation, completed with their staff team, precisely identifies their strengths and areas of improvement to continually raise the quality of care and learning.
- Children are highly motivated learners and demonstrate exceptional levels of inquisitiveness. They thrive in the well-resourced and stimulating environment, where staff offer a wealth of exciting opportunities to explore and investigate.
- Children are supported to develop an excellent knowledge of different materials. For instance, they are mesmerised as they identify whether items are magnetic. They methodically test and sort individual items using magnets. Staff skilfully extend their exploration and children delight in discovering how to use the magnets to move metal items across surfaces.
- Children's behaviour is superb. They develop an exceptional sense of belonging and excellent social skills. Children listen attentively to instructions and respectfully wait for their friends to finish talking before sharing their ideas.
- Children make excellent progress from their starting points, including those who speak English as an additional language. The manager's precise monitoring systems quickly identify children with gaps in their learning. Interventions are swiftly implemented to ensure that they are closed rapidly.
- The leadership team is dedicated to ensuring that parents are included in all aspects of their children's care and learning. For instance, the team hosts regular events for parents to be able to visit the setting such as 'dad drop ins' and 'stay-and-play' sessions. This has a significant impact on children's learning and development.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. Parents are delighted with the 'amazing staff', the 'passionate' owner and the excellent relationships that their children develop. They speak extremely highly of how their children 'thrive' at the nursery.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the systems for monitoring staff members' practice to consistently encourage and sustain the already outstanding teaching practice.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection, and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector had a meeting with the provider. She viewed relevant documentation, including children's developmental records, policies and procedures, and reviewed evidence of staff suitability in the provision.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the quality of the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the provider.

### Inspector

Nicola Edwards

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The leadership team has developed robust procedures to ensure that all staff have an excellent understanding of the child protection procedures. Staff talk confidently about the signs that indicate a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect. They know their responsibilities should they have a concern about a child's welfare. Systems for recruitment, induction and ensuring the ongoing suitability of staff are robust. The managers are committed to supporting staff to develop their skills and offer unique learning experiences for children. Arrangements for staff supervision and peer observations are deeply embedded and support staff to reflect on their practice. Staff are offered a wealth of training to develop their skills to even higher levels. Nonetheless, the provider has identified opportunities to extend her observation systems to support staff to strengthen the quality of interactions even further.

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

Staff have high expectations of all children. They use their diligent observations and assessments to ensure that they plan precise next steps to help children to make rapid progress in their learning. Staff support children to develop excellent problem-solving skills. For example, children demonstrate high levels of perseverance as they use construction toys to build large models outdoors. Staff use skilful questioning techniques to extend children's thinking and encourage them to consider how to securely attach the different parts. Children concentrate for significant lengths of time and develop a superb understanding of balance and scale. Staff successfully ignite children's imaginations. Their exceptional storytelling inspires children to act out favourite stories. For instance, children eagerly wait for the pages of the book to be turned to find out which items they need to collect to make tea for the tiger.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Settling-in arrangements support children to build exceptional relationships with their key person. Children develop an excellent understanding of nature and being healthy. For example, they delight in sharing the fruits and vegetables that they have grown and eagerly pick them for snack time. They predict how many peas will be inside before breaking open the shells. Staff are excellent role models and teach children to have a superb understanding of personal safety. For instance, children enthusiastically help staff complete the daily risk assessment and talk about making sure 'we are safe'. Staff plan excellent opportunities for children to learn about the world around them. For example, children enjoy regular visits to the local senior residents' home to share songs and creative activities. Children enjoy examining the globe to learn about the different countries they come from, and they learn about a wealth of festivals and celebrations.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are excited to learn and are extremely well prepared for the move to school. They develop excellent literacy skills. For example, they recognise letters of the alphabet and identify words that start with familiar sounds, such as 'm' is for 'moss'. Children confidently use mathematical language in their play. For example, they compare the distances cars have travelled and consider who is 'heaviest' and 'lightest' on the see-saw.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	119925
<b>Local authority</b>	Surrey
<b>Inspection number</b>	10104209
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Sessional day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	40
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	55
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Crowder, Pauline
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP511987
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	29 June 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	01483 271976

The Acorn Nursery School registered in 1994. It operates from within the grounds of Cranleigh Primary School Lower, in Cranleigh, Surrey. The nursery is open five days a week, term time only, from 7.45am until 3pm. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 14 members of staff, 13 of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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