

St Bernards Nursery

Oakridge Methodist Church, Vivian Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 5QB



Inspection date

2 April 2015

Previous inspection date

5 April 2011

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

- The nursery is an exceptionally welcoming and stimulating environment. Staff celebrate children's creativity and achievements with exciting displays, which greatly boost children's self esteem.
- A very enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of staff support and extend children's learning, meaning all children make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. Children are superbly well prepared for the next stages in their education.
- The nursery offers an excellent variety of activities to choose from, resulting in children who are excited and motivated to learn. The nursery day offers plenty of time for child-chosen, as well as adult-led, activities. As a result, children are extremely independent, focused and engaged throughout the nursery.
- Assessment of children is highly effective. Staff very quickly identify any additional support needed, and encourage parents to work with them, and others, to support their children. This results in any gaps in children's learning and development closing rapidly.
- The manager is highly reflective and successful. She identifies needs, develops, evaluates and plans continually for improvement in the nursery, which has a very positive impact on children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the music and movement sessions to enable all children to learn how to express themselves to music.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the nursery in action and spoke to children and staff.
- The inspector completed a tour of the nursery with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents about the nursery and the staff, and took note of their views.
- The inspector sampled documentation.
- The inspector had a discussion with the manager of the nursery, and completed a joint observation of staff and children.

Inspector

Emma Dean

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching across the nursery is exceptional. Children are challenged through high quality staff interactions and stimulating activities. Children are expertly supported to think critically and become active learners, gaining skills for future learning. For example, when chickens and eggs were brought in to the nursery, this led to stimulating discussions and predictions of what was inside a cooked egg. This shows how staff extend children's learning by real resources and experiences. Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff praise children for their contributions to group discussions, and value all contributions. Children are, therefore, learning to respect each other and their views. Activities are sharply focused on the needs of the children, stimulating and supporting their development. Highly effective partnerships with local schools means children are extremely well prepared for moving on to school. However, staff do not fully support the younger children to express themselves creatively through music and movement.

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

Children's well-being is high priority for all staff. The highly experienced staff support children to become independent and confident throughout the nursery. Children move between chosen activities and make their own decisions about what to do. Children independently wash their hands after blowing their nose and help to cut up fruit for snack time. These are all important life skills that are supporting children for the future. Staff model exceptional behaviour that is mirrored by the children. The staff have excellent procedures to keep the children safe in a shared building. Staff fully understand safeguarding procedures, which are given a high priority in the nursery. All parents are actively encouraged to become involved in their children's learning and development. They share details of their children's interests and visit the nursery through an open invitation. As a result, parents feel valued and supported, and partnerships are highly effective.

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

The manager is an exemplary leader who guides her staff team to provide an exceptionally high standard of care and learning for all children. The manager is passionate about ensuring that ongoing improvements have a positive impact on the children. Regular staff meetings ensure all staff know each other well and work together as a knowledgeable, united team. This means all children in the nursery greatly benefit from a consistent approach and expectations, and experience a smooth transfer between rooms. All staff are encouraged to attend training and to share what they have learnt with their colleagues. New staff are safely recruited through robust procedures, and ongoing supervision ensures all staff are secure, highly motivated and well supported.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109747
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	824900
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	Carolyn Sloan
Date of previous inspection	5 April 2011
Telephone number	01256 465274

St Bernard's Nursery opened in 1974 and moved to its current premises in 1998. It operates from Oakridge Church in the town of Basingstoke. The nursery have access to three rooms and a large fully enclosed outdoor area. The nursery serves a wide geographical area.

The setting is registered to care for a maximum of 32 children aged between two and eight years of age. The setting currently only takes children from two to five years old. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 82 children on roll. This includes 51 children in receipt of government funding. The nursery is open 51 weeks a year, Monday-Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm and children attend a variety of sessions. The nursery supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and English as an additional language.

There are 11 members of staff who are employed to work with the children and a nursery cook. The manager has a BA in primary practice and a foundation degree in childhood studies, four members of staff hold childcare qualifications at NVQ level 4, six staff at NVQ level 3. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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