

# Halstead Nursery

Halstead CP School, Otford Lane, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7EA



## Inspection date

10 March 2015

Previous inspection date

29 September 2010

<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
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- The enthusiastic and committed staff team provide stimulating and exciting learning experiences. Their excellent knowledge of how children learn, together with their recognition of each individual child's needs and interests, ensures all children are engaged and eager to explore and learn.
- Children form strong bonds with their key person, as well as other staff. This means children feel happy and confident to explore. They become very involved in activities throughout their play and make good relationships with other children.
- Strong leadership and highly effective staff performance management result in high staff retention and an exceptional commitment to their work. The committee and management team strive to ensure all staff access training to continue their professional development and extend their already expert knowledge and high qualifications.
- Highly effective assessment and monitoring procedures means staff accurately identify where children are in their learning and development. Staff plan and extremely successfully introduce interesting activities for children to ensure they progress exceedingly well in their next steps in learning.
- The management and staff team are highly reflective on their practice. This means they are constantly seeking ways to further improve and deliver additional innovative ideas to strengthen their already existing excellent quality of teaching. For example, staff intend to develop the outside environment to further strengthen and maximise children's understanding of the world.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise opportunities for children to use additional, real tools and natural resources in the outdoors to enhance their understanding of the world.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises.
- The inspector had discussions with staff, children, parents and a member of the committee.
- The inspector observed play, activities and routines in the main rooms and outdoor areas.
- A joint observation was undertaken by the inspector and the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including children's records in learning and development, staff qualifications, training and safeguarding procedures and a selection of policies and self-evaluation.

### Inspector

Hilary Welland

## Inspection findings

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

There is an excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, which children access enthusiastically. The staff constantly add further resources to the already stimulating environment, both inside and outside. This highly stimulates children's interest to investigate, explore and learn. Children are exceedingly well supported to be active learners. They excitedly discuss how they use 'paw print' props to explore the garden to find characters from their circle time story. This shows how staff expertly extend literacy and language into all areas of learning to seamlessly enhance and motivate children's play and learning. The highly skilled staff consistently assess children's development. This helps identify any gaps in children's learning. Extremely effective partnership working with parents and professionals from external agencies means staff support children using outstanding teaching strategies. As a result, all children are extremely well supported and make significant progress from their starting points.

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

The skilled, experienced staff support children to become independent in their self-care. Therefore, children flourish, showing high levels of confidence and pride in their abilities. They dress themselves to play outside, independently wash their hands, help prepare snack and wash up afterwards. These important life skills prepare children for the next stages in their learning and school. The staff have excellent procedures to keep children safe. This is central to all staff and embedded throughout all routines and activities. Children enthusiastically learn about healthy lifestyles, including the need for exercise and eating healthy food, which they are excited to grow in their vegetable garden and 'smelly welly' herb planters. Children's behaviour is exemplary, encouraged and positively praised by staff. Children independently remember the rules and demonstrate how they resolve issues, for example, using the sand timer to share toys or discussion to negotiate.

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

Management are passionate to ensure continuous provision of outstanding care and education for young children. The management lead by exemplary example. Their excellent leadership and vision for the future motivate staff to excel in their already outstanding practice. All staff keenly maximise opportunities to attend specialised training to enhance their high-quality skills. This has a very positive influence on the exceptional progress for all children and the support received by each family. Management ensure their embedded knowledge is consistently updated and effectively passed on to parents, staff and other professionals through leading a collaboration of early years settings.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127219
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	825402
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	32
<b>Name of provider</b>	Halstead Nursery Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	29 September 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	07950681846

The Halstead Nursery established in 1963. It is managed by a voluntary management committee and is based in an annexe in the grounds of Halstead Community Primary School in Kent. The nursery opens five days a week during term times from 9am until 3.15pm. There are seven staff employed in the nursery. The manager and deputy hold early years qualifications at level 6. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free education to children aged two, three and four years.

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