

Inspection of Charters Ancaster Nursery

Charters Ancaster, Gunters Lane, Bexhill On Sea TN39 4EB

Inspection date: 24 June 2021

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thrive in this exceptional nursery. Staff fully respect, welcome and celebrate every child's unique characteristics and personality. Children are highly motivated to learn. They develop an immense thirst for knowledge. They ask questions and show real enthusiasm for learning. Staff inspire them every day to try their best. Babies form exceptionally close attachments to staff. The highly professional staff team means children know the adults who look after them well and are extremely comfortable in their care. Children gain a wealth of skills, which help them to be ready for future learning and starting school. They are exceptionally confident, behave very well, form close and trusting friendships with others, and are curious to find new ways of doing things.

Staff meticulously plan all activities, including those which take place outside. They are highly vigilant and teach children the importance of managing risks and learning how to do things safely. For example, when children use the woodland area, they know exactly how to use real tools safely as they have learned how to do this from a young age. They climb trees and confidently make decisions to climb to a level they feel safe at.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The nursery manager is highly respected by both staff and parents. She is dynamic in her approach to managing the nursery and works tirelessly with her team to deliver the highest quality standards. She leads by example and empowers her staff to make changes to nursery practice based on the latest research. For example, staff recently thoroughly reviewed the presentation of displays and the resources children use. This has significantly enhanced the learning environment and improved children's concentration and interest in activities.
- Funding is used extremely well to support every child's learning needs. Additional staff are always available for children who may need extra help with their learning. As a result, children have plenty of individual attention and their learning needs are continually planned for.
- Staff respond quickly to children's changing needs. After lockdown, some children needed extra support in developing their communication skills. Staff worked closely with parents and a speech and language therapist. As a result, children made rapid progress and any gaps in their learning were closed quickly.
- The curriculum is extremely well planned. It runs seamlessly through the age groups, allowing children to build and extend their skills. Staff precisely assess what children can do and meticulously plan for what they need to learn next. The extensive outside areas are used particularly well to enrich children's learning.

- Staff know exactly what children like and their interests and plan for this accordingly. For example, children experimented with fruit and herbal tea leaves, and pretended to make their own tea. Children enthusiastically explored the fruit kernels, trying to identify the different fruits they could smell.
- Children's behaviour is impeccable. They are kind, courteous, polite and respectful. The atmosphere in all areas of the nursery is calm and peaceful as children are busy and positively engaged. Children make their own 'rules', with instructions such as 'talk nicely' and 'kind hands', and consistently manage their own, and their friends' behaviour. Children remind each other of the rules when needed.
- Children make outstanding progress from their starting points. Teaching is consistently of the highest quality across the nursery. Staff are highly skilled, with a good number qualified to degree level. They hold an impressive range of talents and are highly dedicated to the children. For example, one staff member told the story of 'The Three Bears' to younger children without the need for a book or props. She used her imagination, creativity and expression to recall the story. Children were totally captivated and delighted.
- Parents describe the nursery as 'brilliant' and 'amazing'. They highly commend the staff and praise the way in which their children quickly settle and are so happy. Despite the restrictions of COVID-19 (coronavirus), staff have used innovative ways to keep parents fully informed about what their children are doing at nursery and their progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff give top priority to keeping children safe. They continually review the nursery environment, both indoors and outdoors, to make sure it is always safe and secure. Staff are extremely vigilant in noticing any changes in a child's behaviour and actions. They complete extensive training in safeguarding and know exactly what to do if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff fully understand, and implement, the comprehensive safeguarding procedures. For example, they fully understand the whistle-blowing policy and know who to report any issues to. They note any patterns in children's absence and check to make sure there are no concerns about a family's well-being.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY558142
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10190200
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	84
Number of children on roll	102
Name of registered person	Charters Ancaster College (1995)
Registered person unique reference number	RP558141
Telephone number	01424 216670
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Charters Ancaster Nursery registered in 2018. It operates from the former Charter Ancaster College site in Bexhill, East Sussex. It opens from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. A team of 32 staff work with the children. All permanent staff are qualified to at least level 2 and above. Five staff are trained to degree level. The setting receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jo Caswell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The nursery manager and the inspector completed a walk around the nursery. They discussed how children's learning is planned for.
- The inspector watched an activity with the nursery manager, and they reflected on the quality of teaching together.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing at nursery.
- Parents shared their views through written feedback. Some parents spoke to the inspector in person, or by telephone.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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