

# The Ace Children's Centre

Burford Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 5DZ



## Inspection date

2 April 2015

Previous inspection date

29 September 2011

<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

- There is a very strong focus on ensuring that staff know children very well as individuals through excellent assessment procedures and partnerships with parents.
- Staff respond very successfully to children's changing interests and to their spontaneous play. They maximise learning opportunities and help children learn in a way that suits them.
- The management team ensures that monitoring procedures are highly effective to assess young children's development in key areas of learning. Staff identify and address any gaps in learning rigorously so that children with lower than expected starting points catch up quickly.
- Data clearly shows that children attending the day care facility consistently achieve higher levels of attainment on entry to their next stage of learning than other groups of children.
- Staff focus very well on promoting independence, helping children to develop new skills and to be confident about making choices.
- Children benefit from very clear and consistent messages about positive behaviour, which all staff reinforce effectively.
- Staff work exceptionally well as a team, supporting new staff and temporary staff very successfully so that everyone is familiar with established strategies and procedures.
- The quality of leadership is outstanding. There is an exceptionally strong drive for improvement with excellent opportunities for staff to enhance their professional development.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the use of visual aids to further support children's awareness of similarities and differences between themselves and others.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the head of the centre.
- The inspector talked to children, staff and parents at appropriate points throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the management team.
- The inspector took account of documentation, including children's assessment records, evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and the setting's various self-reflection records.

### Inspector

Gill Little

## Inspection findings

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

There is a very effective whole team approach to meeting children's individual needs. Senior staff, key persons and support staff know children and their families exceptionally well. They put into place strategies and action plans so that all children, including those with low starting points, make rapid and sustained progress in their communication, social and physical skills. This approach provides an excellent foundation for future learning and prepares children very well for their next stages. Staff build very effectively on children's 'in the moment' interests, such as their excitement about ongoing building work to improve the outdoor area. Staff provide a running commentary as workers operate the diggers, supporting children's language skills and understanding of the world very effectively. They provide a viewing platform so that children can choose to watch the ongoing work independently. Trays of stones and gravel on the floor encourage the children to explore construction toys to re-enact the work they see outside.

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

Key persons are very effective in helping children to settle and work very closely with parents. For example, they use photo books of children's home lives and the day care facility to encourage children to express their feelings to staff and parents. Staff focus very well on promoting independence, such as providing transition cups to help children manage drinking from an open cup. This has proved to be very successful. Staff support children to manage risks and challenges with confidence, such as showing them how to hold scissors safely. Children have use of the extensive and highly stimulating nursery school garden, which provides excellent opportunities for outdoor play. Staff support children well to learn about people who are different from themselves, although they are not making the best use of visual aids to further promote learning.

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

The management team demonstrates an excellent understanding of its responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff receive very good support to help them safeguard children. They all have access to relevant training, routine reviews during staff meetings and the benefit of on-site professional support within the children's centre. Leadership is inspirational and the site is a designated teaching school, providing excellent opportunities for staff development. Partnership working with other professionals and settings around the country promotes the pursuit of excellence and is highly motivational for staff. As a result, staff are very aware of children's individual needs and strategies to support them.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	133481
<b>Local authority</b>	Oxfordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	825553
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 2
<b>Total number of places</b>	16
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	28
<b>Name of provider</b>	The Activities, Childcare and Education Centre Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	29 September 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01608 644440

The Ace Children's Centre in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, registered in 1998. Gems Daycare forms part of the children's centre provision. It is open on weekdays from 8am until 6pm all year. The daycare facility cares for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children age two years. The daycare facility employs nine staff, of whom one holds Qualified Teacher Status and one holds Early Years Professional Status. Of the remaining staff, five hold relevant qualifications from level 2 to level 4.

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