

# Inspection of Robertsbridge Children's Services

Robertsbridge Children's Services, George Hill, ROBERTSBRIDGE, East Sussex TN32 5AX

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Inspection date: 29 July 2025

| <b>Overall effectiveness</b> | <b>Outstanding</b> |
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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

Outstanding

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is outstanding**

Children benefit from an outstanding start to their learning and development in this exceptional nursery. Staff are highly experienced, caring and dedicated, and they create an extremely homely, welcoming and nurturing environment. Babies and children show how comfortable and happy they feel. They snuggle up to staff, involve them in their play and look to them confidently for reassurance if they need it. Children's laughter and happy voices fill the nursery.

Every child is valued, respected and included. Staff know each child and family exceptionally well. They put meticulous thought into how they plan activities and take full account of how every child prefers to learn, and what they are currently interested in. Children show real excitement about going to the field to pick blackberries. They have watched the blackberries ripen over time and are excited to know they are ready to pick. Children eagerly explain they are going to make a crumble pudding and relate this in a humorous way to the 'Gruffalo crumble' in one of their favourite stories. Staff build on this enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. They present activities in a creative and enticing way. This encourages children to become deeply engaged and thoroughly absorbed in their learning. For instance, children are enthralled and captivated as they listen to a staff member read a story about blackberry picking and relate it clearly and explicitly to their own experiences.

Children display exemplary levels of behaviour. They listen carefully, negotiate with one another to agree outcomes as they play and value what others have to say. Staff promote this positive behaviour exceptionally well. They praise children highly, so that children feel good about themselves and they clearly understand the importance of respect and simple boundaries. Children demonstrate confidence levels well beyond those typical for their age, which builds their resilience and prepares them exceptionally well for future learning.

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

- Children are at the heart of everything leaders set out to do. The leadership team and trustees are relentless in their approach towards reviewing practice, training and supporting staff and adapting the provision to meet the varying needs of all children and families. Funding is used exceptionally well to enhance children's learning experiences. Leaders plan for this incisively and target funding where it is most needed. This helps to ensure that any gaps in children's learning close rapidly.
- The nursery curriculum is skilfully structured and sequenced highly effectively from one room to the next. Babies and children develop an exceptional range of skills and knowledge that prepare them well for future learning. The curriculum

is significantly enriched by frequent learning experiences outside and within the local village. Children are very much part of the village community and take part in many events, including laying a wreath at the village Remembrance Day service. Children also visit local places of interest and learn about the role of others. For instance, they visit the museum and learn about the intricate craft of ironmongery.

- Teaching is consistently outstanding. Staff plan meticulously for every child's learning needs. Babies delight in exploring different textures as they progress from sitting, to crawling, standing and walking. They wave excitedly through the carefully-designed low-level fencing at their older friends and siblings in the adjoining garden. This reflects the happy, family ethos. Older children delight in taking more risks in their play. They learn how to climb trees and balance on raised surfaces safely as staff have taught them how to do this. Children enjoy woodwork sessions and create items, such as bird boxes and use tools skilfully as they fully understand the possible dangers.
- Staff utilise every opportunity to build children's confidence and enable them to develop a range of skills. For example, as part of the curriculum, staff teach children how to ride a bicycle. Children progress from using balance bikes to riding two-wheeled bicycles unaided. This plays a significant role in building children's balance, coordination and core muscle development, which supports their overall physical development. Children are exceptionally proud of their achievements and develop an extremely positive 'can-do' approach to their learning.
- The development of children's language skills is exceptionally good. Staff quickly notice when a child may need extra support with their communication skills and put additional help in place swiftly. Staff introduce children to an extensive range of words and language through the daily routine. They provide an exceptional language-rich environment. Children learn and recognise simple rhyming words as they explore poetry and develop an excellent understanding of sounds that different letters represent. Children talk at length about what they are interested in and staff skilfully encourage children to remember facts from previous learning and expand on the range of words they readily recall and use.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## Setting details

|                                                    |                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>                     | EY349730                                                                          |
| <b>Local authority</b>                             | East Sussex                                                                       |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                           | 10399128                                                                          |
| <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>                               | Full day care                                                                     |
| <b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b> | 0 to 4                                                                            |
| <b>Total number of places</b>                      | 49                                                                                |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>                  | 55                                                                                |
| <b>Name of registered person</b>                   | Robertsbridge Children's Services Committee                                       |
| <b>Registered person unique reference number</b>   | RP902124                                                                          |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                            | 01580 881 466                                                                     |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>                 | 20 November 2019                                                                  |

## Information about this early years setting

Robertsbridge Children's Services registered in 2007. It operates from purpose-designed premises in Robertsbridge, East Sussex. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 5.30pm, all year around. Funding is accepted to provide free early education for children aged from nine months. A team of 16 staff work with the children, most of whom are qualified to level 3. One staff member is a qualified teacher. The nursery manager holds a level 4 qualification.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Jo Caswell

## Inspection activities

- The deputy manager completed a learning walk with the inspector and explained how the nursery curriculum is delivered.
- The inspector spoke to staff about how they plan for children's learning and monitor the progress children make.
- Children talked to the inspector what they enjoy doing at nursery.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the nursery.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.

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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