

Honeybees Preschool

The Pavillion, King George V Playing Fields, Station Road, Plumpton Green, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3DP



Inspection date 3 February 2015
Previous inspection date 11 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The leadership and management are strong. There is a clear commitment between management, staff and committee members to continually developing pre-school practice in order to improve opportunities for children's care and learning.
- Management monitors staff performance using annual appraisals and supervision sessions. Staff are passionate about their job roles. They have great enthusiasm and commitment towards their professional development and use what they learn to enhance children's learning.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development. This is because of the good quality teaching, which provides interesting and challenging activities that meet the needs of all children.
- Children make good use of an excellent range of good-quality toys and resources.
- Staff promote children's independence skills well. They help children learn how to keep themselves safe during outdoor play.
- Staff have positive partnerships with all parents and carers because they use a number of successful strategies to engage them. This promotes a shared approach to meeting the individual needs of children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Very occasionally, staff miss opportunities to enhance children's critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in their play and learning.
- Staff do not fully enhance opportunities for children to run around freely in the outdoor learning environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the use of consistent questioning techniques to fully enhance children's critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
- enhance the use of current resources in outdoor play to increase opportunities for children to be more active.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of staff interaction with children, in both play areas and the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector checked the evidence of staff suitability and qualifications of those working with children.

Inspector

Janet Thouless

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide an exciting range of activities which motivate and engage children in their play and learning. They use their knowledge and skills to plan activities that successfully promote children's individual learning well overall. A good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities ensures children can take the lead in their learning. Staff give children's communication, language and literacy skills a high priority. The use of children's own story sacks lead to many conversations about items that can be found on a farm. Children confidently contribute their own thoughts and ideas. Staff follow children's interests and interact with them to extend learning opportunities, such as when playing imaginatively in the role-play area. However, very occasionally staff do not use comprehensive questioning techniques to fully encourage children to think and solve problems during their self-chosen play. Staff target activities effectively to suit children's ages and abilities, and build on their existing skills. They challenge older children by introducing letters and sounds, and the focus for younger children is to be able to sit and listen for a gradually increasing timescale. This develops their skills in readiness for their next stage of learning.

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

Staff develop good relationships with children; therefore children are happy, confident and feel emotionally secure in their care. This is because the effective key-person system supports good transitions from home to pre-school. Children's behaviour is good because they learn about the expected levels of behaviour from the positive role modelling of staff. Staff meets children's dietary needs, providing wholesome snacks. Children understand the importance of washing their hands before and after meals, which promotes good hygiene. Staff provide outdoor learning in all weathers, promoting children's good health and emotional well-being. Children climb and investigate park apparatus but do not always have opportunities to run and play more freely.

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

Staff have a sound knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They complete child protection training and demonstrate a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow to safeguard children. Staff complete observations and assessment, to understand children's learning styles and interests. They then monitor the delivery of the educational programmes to ensure children are challenged and motivated in their individual next steps in learning. This shows a strong focus on continuously improving outcomes for children. Parents are involved in their children's learning and development. For example, they readily embrace making story sacks at home, which children bring to pre-school to share with their friends. This significantly contributes to children's self-assurance and positive attitude to learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109441
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	973078
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Honey Bees Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2014
Telephone number	07745 570882

Honeybees Pre-School opened in 1972 and operates from two rooms in the sports pavilion. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm term time only. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Of these, four have a childcare qualification at level 3, one has a childcare qualification at level 2 and two are unqualified.

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