

Little Stars Pre School

Mill Primary School, Ifield Drive, CRAWLEY, West Sussex, RH11 0EL



Inspection date	25 February 2015
Previous inspection date	7 February 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff regularly observe children's play. They use this information well to identify children's interests and plan for their next steps in learning. Consequently, all children regardless of their starting points make good progress.
- Children benefit from accessing the large hall where they have opportunities to run around freely and develop their physical skills. Additionally, this promotes children's well-being and helps them to develop a healthy lifestyle.
- Staff have strong relationships with parents. They communicate with them in a variety of ways, which constantly informs parents of their children's development. Staff welcome parents into the setting and encourage their involvement in their child's learning.
- The manager and staff are highly committed to improving the provision and outcomes for children. Consequently, the setting has been extended to provide more space for children to develop their physical skills.
- Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and know how to report concerns about children's welfare. This ensures children are safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to engage children in purposeful discussions to further develop their thinking skills and level of knowledge.
- Staff do not consistently promote children's mathematical development during adult-guided activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the quality of interaction with children at appropriate times during activities, to further promote their knowledge and thinking skills
- enhance further children's mathematical development, particularly during planned activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the setting, outdoor area and school hall.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's development and the settings policies and procedures.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views on staff and the setting.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide children access to a range of activities and resources, which promotes their independence. Therefore, children show good levels of confidence when using equipment, such as mark-making utensils. However, occasionally, staff do not fully develop children's thinking skills or test their knowledge through purposeful questioning. Children enjoy exploring activities that staff prepare for them and are eager to take part. For example, children looked at books and used their creative skills to make their own caterpillars out of craft materials. Children further enjoyed taking part in cooking activities. However, staff missed opportunities to develop children's mathematical knowledge or allowed them to explore the ingredients. Children have a genuine love of books. Staff make reading interesting and fun by providing props and resources to help tell stories. Staff use popular stories to develop children's knowledge and teach them words, such as 'chrysalis' and 'cocoon'. This promotes children's early literacy development and supports their future learning.

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

Children consistently demonstrate good levels of independence throughout daily routines. For example, they use knives to cut up fruit for breakfast and spread butter on toast. Staff support children effectively, but allow them time to try for themselves, and offer praise and encouragement to develop their confidence. Children enjoy climbing up onto apparatus and staff remind them to hold on with both hands. This encourages children to take safe risks and responsibility for their actions. Staff stand close by while children jump onto safety mats to ensure their safety, but also encourage their independence and provide support, if needed. Children behave well. They have strong relationships with staff and listen to instructions. Children are happy and have good relationships with one another. They learn to share resources and include each other in their play.

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

The manager has a confident knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She effectively monitors the environment to ensure it is safe for children. The manager implements robust recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of staff. She is committed to training staff and regularly reviews and discusses their individual training plans to meet development needs. The manager conducts regular meetings and annual appraisals to enable staff to discuss children's development, ideas to improve the setting and recent training they have attended. She monitors the provision by regularly observing staff practice, providing feedback and reviewing children's development records. Staff have strong relationships with local schools and work in partnership to support children's future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440138
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	824498
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	78
Name of provider	Little Stars Pre School Ifield Ltd
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2012
Telephone number	07975 752798

Little Stars Pre-School registered in 2011. It operates from the grounds of Mill Primary School, Crawley, in West Sussex. It is open each weekday from 8.45am to 2.45pm, during term-time only. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children. There are 13 members of staff who work with the children who are suitably qualified. The manager holds a qualification in leadership and management at level 5 as well as a recognised childcare qualification at level 3.

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