

Headcorn Pre-School

Headcorn Village Hall, Church Walk, Headcorn, TN27 9HR



Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

7 October 2010

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

- Staff offer children a wide range of activities to challenge and motivate them, which means that children enjoy learning through play and make good progress.
- Staff use observations and assessment successfully to plan for children's next steps in their learning. Therefore, children make consistent progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff encourage parents to contribute to children's observations and summaries. Regular termly meetings enable parents and staff to share information about children's progress. Therefore, parents are able to further support their children's learning at home.
- Staff ask children skilful questions and introduce new vocabulary during conversations, which supports children's communication and language development.
- The staff encourage children to play outside to develop their physical skills in the fresh air. Staff help children to further their knowledge of healthy lifestyles by providing and talking about choosing healthy foods.
- All staff are confident with safeguarding procedures. All policies are up to date and there is a robust system for recruitment and suitability checks.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide resources and opportunities for children to practise writing for a purpose in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a wider range of writing materials to enhance and extend opportunities for children to practise making marks in their play to support early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the supervisor.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's folders, policies and procedures.
- The inspector observed the pre-school environment indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views.
- The inspector had a discussion with the owner and the supervisor.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

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 resources which enable children to play and explore. The designated areas for books, music, role play and construction encourage children to build relationships with each other. Staff help children to develop their early writing skills through using paint, chalk and shaving foam. However, staff do not always provide resources such as pencils and crayons for children to use in their imaginative play. Staff deployment is good as they understand when to involve themselves in the children's play. For example, they extend role play in the construction area with the use of puppets and add play dough to the role play kitchen. Staff complete initial assessments of children's learning when they start. They use their ongoing observations and assessments to plan effectively for children's next steps in their learning. This helps children to make good progress and be ready for their move to school.

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

Children form secure attachments with their key person. Therefore, children are confident and display high levels of self-esteem. Staff plan effectively for the different ages and abilities and encourage independence at an appropriate level. For example, older children use the toilet independently and all children are encouraged to wash up their utensils at snack time. Initial information given to parents regarding healthy lunch boxes supports the pre-school's healthy eating policy, and consistent boundaries ensure that children's behaviour is good. Effective partnerships with other agencies support individual children, and a close link with the local school teachers supports children as they prepare for entry into school.

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

The staff team works closely together. Staff observations and parent's views support the ongoing evaluation of the pre-school. For example, the environment was evaluated to prepare for two-year-olds and the behaviour policy was updated to identify strategies for positive behaviour. The recommendations from the previous inspection have been achieved and this is particularly evident from the well-planned environment and staff knowledge, resulting in improved outcomes for children. Staff attend regular training. The manager carries out regular supervision meetings for individual staff and all staff meet monthly to agree future plans and to discuss children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY340577
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	844015
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Paula Skilton
Date of previous inspection	7 October 2010
Telephone number	01622 891477

Headcorn Pre-School registered in 2005 and is privately owned. The pre-school operates from the village hall complex in Headcorn. It is open every weekday from 9am to 12 noon, and on Mondays and Thursdays until 3pm. There are eight members of staff, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least level 3.

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