

The Firs Nursery

Chartham Primary School, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7QN



Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

25 September 2009

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 ensure that children are well prepared for school, providing good experiences and varied resources to build a good foundation of learning.
- The management and all staff are determined to continue to improve the practice. A high level of commitment and passion is demonstrated to provide good quality teaching and learning experiences for all children.
- Staff maintain a good level of communication with parents, ensuring that they are included and are kept well informed of their children's development.
- Staff have good relationships with all children. Therefore, children are happy, settled and demonstrate a good sense of belonging.
- Staff use a variety of effective communication techniques to engage all children. Staff model positive communication and language, which children respond well to.
- Staff give high priority to safeguarding, meaning all children are kept safe.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported by well-embedded strategies, meaning that all children progress at a good rate.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always encourage children to further develop their independence skills, through being fully involved in daily routines, including meal times.
- Staff do not always provide opportunities for children to develop understanding of diversity and differences in society.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the range of resources and experiences for children to encourage their awareness of differences in society
- review daily routines, including mealtimes, to extend opportunities for children to further develop their independence skills and participation during these times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the nursery that children use.
- The inspector observed staff interacting with the children.
- The inspector sampled written documentation, including children's progress reports, policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to children, gathered parents' views and spoke to staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

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

Staff effectively provide a wide variety of activities to promote children's learning and development across all areas of learning. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to increase their awareness of differences in society. Staff encourage children to independently select activities. They demonstrate that they have high expectations of the children, as they provide activities that require a level of maturity, for example, using real tools. Staff provide good experiences and teach children skills they require for future learning to prepare them well for school. For example, they work as a team playing directional games, and participate in letter and number activities. Children actively use sign language and visual time lines to develop communication and language skills. Staff work well with parents providing children with consistency of care.

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

The staff have good relationships with the children who are quick to settle and are happy throughout the day. Children are stimulated and motivated to learn. However, staff do not always fully engage children during changes in the daily routine in order for them to further develop their independence skills. Staff teach children to understand the importance of caring for others and living things. Children enjoy looking after their pre-school guinea pig, and show empathy towards each other. Staff model good behaviour and manners, meaning children behave well. Staff have established good relationships with outside agencies and other settings. For example, school teachers regularly visit to share story time.

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

Management and staff have a good knowledge of the requirements for safeguarding and the procedures to follow, meaning all children are kept safe. The pre-school is thoroughly risk assessed to ensure it is safe and secure for children. Management regularly monitor the quality of provision and make positive changes to improve learning outcomes for all children. The manager follows established procedures to ensure the suitability of staff, through vigorous checks and induction process. The manager supports staff professional development well through supervision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127688
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840696
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	The Firs Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 September 2009
Telephone number	01227 731876

The Firs Nursery opened in 1994. It operates from premises located in the grounds of Chartham Primary School, near Canterbury. It is open each weekday from 8.45am to 3.30pm, term time only. There are 11 members of staff, including the manager, eight of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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