

River Pre-School Playgroup

River Methodists Church Hall, Common Lane, Dover, Kent, CT17 0RA



Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

20 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children benefit from an exceptional snack time that promotes their understanding of healthy eating and their independence skills. Children relish the opportunity to use knives to cut up their fruit, pour their own drinks and wash their plates and cups when finished.
- Staff have well-established and successful relationships with other settings and schools, which positively supports children when they move on to their next stage of learning. Staff have spent time observing in the local school so they are fully aware of the next step for children. They use this unique experience to support older children in sessions to mirror the school routine.
- The leadership team works closely with the staff to drive continual improvement in the pre-school. Children benefit from sharply focused and highly successful development of their provision. For example, the recent development for new storage means staff can now unpack all of the resources for children to self-select, which they do with ease.
- Staff work hard to ensure clear communication with each other. Children receive a consistently high-quality experience as all relevant information is passed on to support their learning, development and well-being.
- Staff support children's learning and development with positive and rich interactions. Children are able to explore role play resources, such as a hairdressers, and staff support them with ideas and questioning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already wide variety of print in the environment to further support children's emerging literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector observed the quality of the teaching throughout the provision and assessed the impact this has on the children's learning, both inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, development plans and policies.

Inspector

Sarah Taylor-Smith

Inspection findings

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

Staff form strong relationships with parents to fully understand children's developmental stages before they begin at the pre-school. Staff use this information to plan exciting and interesting activities that children can explore further using their own ideas. . For example, children choose objects to explore which one makes a bigger splash in the water. They are encouraged to make predictions and conclusions. Assessment is very accurate and focused on supporting children to progress, ensuring all children make the best possible progress. Children are exceptionally well prepared for their next stage of learning. Staff support them incredibly well with good questions and interactions to challenge their thinking. Staff fully support children's learning at home with a home lending library to promote children's communication and language. However, extension of print in the pre-school environment could further extend children's literacy skills.

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

Children display very high levels of involvement and are very settled. Staff are highly sensitive to ensuring children are engaged and actively learning at all times. For example, at lunchtime, staff support children's discussion about the shape of their food by encouraging them to consider other shapes around them. Staff explain the pre-school rules daily and children show they understand by displaying high levels of behaviour throughout the day. Staff encourage children to resolve disputes themselves, which children do very successfully. Children are fully confident to approach staff and know they will meet their needs. For example, children wanted to continue to play outside with a ball and they were quickly supported to do this. Staff work very well with parents to share information about children's achievements, which are celebrated using the 'achievement tree'.

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

The manager has a very strong understanding of how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage and is dedicated to providing the best continuous improvement for the setting. The staff, committee, parents and children are involved in accurately evaluating the setting in order to achieve the best experiences for children. The manager closely monitors children's progress and the quality of their experiences. She quickly identifies and implements improvements to benefit children's development. Staff are fully aware of the outside space limitations and children benefit hugely from regular outings to the school and local parks to support their health and physical development. Safeguarding is of central importance to staff, who demonstrate how to keep children safe well. The leadership team provides a high level of supervision to support staff development based on observations of practice. Staff mainly access targeted in-house training to provide a consistent approach to developing their already strong practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127500
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836232
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	River Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2011
Telephone number	01304449302

River Pre-school is committee run and registered in 1992. It is located in the village of River near Dover. The setting is open during term time on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8.45am to 2.45pm, and on Tuesdays from 8.45am to 12.45pm. The pre-school has links with local schools and settings. The nursery employs 10 staff, 8 of whom hold early years qualifications. The setting receives funding for early education for two-, three- and four- year olds.

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