

Sutton Valence Pre School Group



The Parish Rooms, Chart Road, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3AW

Inspection date 20 March 2015
Previous inspection date 23 May 2011

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 provide a welcoming environment. Children benefit from a wide range of stimulating activities to support their learning, both indoors and in the outside area.
- Staff are kind and caring. They establish good relationships with families and involve them in their child's learning. Therefore, children make good progress.
- Staff plan effectively for individual children and identify their next steps in learning. They support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who are learning English as an additional language very well.
- The manager monitors the practice at the pre-school effectively. She has clear plans for the future and is committed to developing staff practice in order to improve outcomes for children.
- The manager is supported by a committee who are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. As a result, the leadership is strong.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always consider the two-year-old children's varying levels of development when organising activities. This means that some of the younger children lose interest during free play in the large hall.
- Staff do not always monitor the noise levels closely. This means that at times when older children are playing and expressing themselves freely, the noise levels become too high. As a result, some of the younger children become overwhelmed.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the daily routines in order to manage noise levels and to ensure that the two-year-old children are able to be fully involved in all activities
- enable children to spend more time in organised group activities with an adult if they choose to do so.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed practice indoors and in the outside area.
- The inspector looked at evidence of suitability of staff and their qualifications.
- The manager and the inspector conducted a joint observation.
- The inspector sampled a range of policies, risk assessments, records of meetings, children's records and the pre-school's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, members of the committee, staff, parents and children and took account of their views.

Inspector

Annette Blundred

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a good range of learning experiences to promote children's development. Children are able to choose from many resources, both indoors and outdoors, to support their learning. Following recent training, staff use key words, visual prompts and signing to support communication with children who have additional needs. Staff promote literacy very well and there are many opportunities for children to enjoy books, to practise early writing skills and to link letters and sounds. Staff develop children's early mathematical skills and extend their thinking. For example, staff encourage children to put numbers in order and to sort, match and weight items. This prepares children well for starting school. Parents contribute to the regular observations and photographic records of their children's achievements. They comment that they feel fully involved with their child's learning and that their children make very good progress.

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

There is an effective key-person system in place and children form strong bonds with their key person. Staff gather good information from parents before children start to find out about their needs and interests. Most children arrive confidently and play happily throughout the session. Children gain in confidence and they establish good friendships. They respect each other and they behave well. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. They teach children about good hygiene and healthy eating. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise. They wash their hands regularly, they pour their own drinks and they serve themselves at snack time. This promotes their independence and self-care skills well. Staff encourage children to use good manners and snack time is a sociable experience. Children sometimes help to prepare the food, which supports their physical and self-care skills further.

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

The manager and staff have a secure understanding of their responsibilities. They use daily checks to keep the environment safe. All staff have completed safeguarding training. They are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern arising about children, to promote their welfare. The quality of the teaching is good. Staff work in close partnership with other professionals to support each child's learning needs well. The manager uses effective supervision to evaluate staff performance and to identify their training needs. The self-evaluation process successfully involves parents', children's and staff's views and opinions to help shape the service provided. Staff have good links with local schools, which help to support children as they move onto school. Parents' speak highly of the staff and say that they are very happy with the care and learning experiences their children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127665
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840692
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Sutton Valence Pre School Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 May 2011
Telephone number	01622 842388

Sutton Valence Pre-School opened in 1981. It operates from Sutton Valence Parish Rooms in Sutton Valence, near Maidstone, Kent. The pre-school is open five days a week during school term times only from 9.15am until 3pm. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are ten members of staff who work with the children, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is a qualified teacher. The manager is currently studying for a level 5 qualification.

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