

Southborough Pre-School

The Community Centre, Crundwell Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0LL



Inspection date

23 March 2015

Previous inspection date

27 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	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

- The quality of teaching is exceptional and fully supports the individual needs of the children. Staff create a happy, stimulating environment and their positive, enthusiastic approach to teaching and learning significantly enhances children's progress.
- The comprehensive observation, assessment and planning systems enable staff to extend all children's progress significantly in relation to their starting points.
- The staff team demonstrates an excellent understanding of safeguarding, and the extensive policies and procedures fully enhance children's safety and well being. Robust recruitment practices help the management team ensure staff suitability.
- Partnerships with parents, carers and other settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage are outstanding and greatly enhance consistency in learning. Parents and carers speak extremely highly of the pre-school and their commitment to providing a high quality learning experience for children.
- The management team demonstrates an excellent drive for the ongoing development of the pre-school by effectively identifying aspects or areas for further enhancement.
- Children are extremely well prepared for their next stages in learning and their move on to school is promoted thoroughly by the staff in consultation with parents and Reception teachers at local schools.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's already strong awareness of diversity by providing stories and songs in different languages for them to listen to.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play in the indoor and outdoor learning environments, including child-initiated and adult-led activities.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and chair of the management committee, and had discussions with staff members about their roles.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector discussed safeguarding processes and checked evidence of safe recruitment, the ongoing suitability and professional development of staff and self-evaluation systems.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as the attendance register, planning documents, children's records and staff records including suitability checks.

Inspector

Lara Hickson

Inspection findings

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

Children really enjoy their time at the setting and are happy, engaged and stimulated throughout. An extensive range of inspirational, innovative activities are easily accessible for children to independently select in the indoor and outdoor environments. This greatly promotes their decision-making skills. Highly effective staff engagement enhances children's interest and progress during activities. Consequently, children are extremely motivated and absorbed in their play, such as when making a pretend camp fire outside. Partnership with parents is exceptional and highly effective strategies are used to engage parents in their child's learning. For example, an innovative on-line observation and assessment system allows parents to see how their child is progressing. Parents are able to contribute to their child's unique learning journal and gain an understanding of how they can extend their child's learning at home.

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

Children's well-being is thoroughly promoted. Highly effective settling-in procedures and the well organised key-person system enables children to feel secure. Children's independence is exceptionally well promoted and this effectively supports their preparation for school. For example, children help to prepare and serve their own snacks and develop robust personal hygiene routines. Safety is a high priority and comprehensive risk assessments and daily checks ensure that any hazards are identified and minimised. Staff develop children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe while supporting them to take manageable risks. They encourage children to go down the slide in different ways, reminding them to wait their turn until the child in front of them has finished their go. Highly effective partnerships with other settings and professionals are effective in ensuring that children's individual needs are met. Partnerships with local schools are well developed and enhance consistency in children's care and learning.

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

An extensive range of policies and procedures are embedded in practice and underpin the excellent practice observed within the pre-school. These are regularly reviewed and amended to ensure the ongoing well-being, safety and development of the children. There are robust supervision and appraisal systems to support the ongoing suitability and professional development of staff. Regular supervision sessions and appraisals enable all staff to identify their training needs to further enhance their knowledge and expertise. The management team regularly review children's progress which enables them to identify any gaps in their learning. Strategies are developed to address any gaps and intervention is sought as needed in full agreement from parents. This enables all children to be fully supported and to make excellent progress given their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127449
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836225
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Southborough Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2011
Telephone number	07980 332992

Southborough Pre-School is committee-run and registered in 1991. It operates from the community centre in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.00am until 15.00pm, term time only. The preschool receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. Eight members of staff work with the children, seven of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The preschool also employs an administrator.

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