

Buttons Pre-School

160 Margate Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6AA



Inspection date

1 April 2015

Previous inspection date

14 February 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

- Children have good relationships with staff, which helps them to settle easily. Their key person helps them to become familiar with the pre-school and make new friends. As a result, children have a good sense of belonging and are confident.
- Staff know what to do if they are concerned about a child's welfare. They keep the premises safe and secure. Consequently, children are effectively safeguarded.
- Snack times are used efficiently to promote children's independence by allowing children to pour their own drinks of water and choose healthy options at snack time.
- There is a strong focus on training and staff development. This is reflected in the staff's knowledge of how children learn through play and the experiences and activities they provide.
- Staff teach children to learn to manage their own behaviour. Therefore, children behave well, take turns and have good social skills.
- Staff have good links with local school teachers who they invite into the pre-school. This enables children to meet the teachers prior to their move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently promote and extend children's awareness of simple mathematical concepts, such as more or less during planned and child-led activities.
- The staff do not consistently provide a wide range of natural resources for children to explore. Therefore, children are not always able to use their senses to learn about the world around them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further enhance children's awareness of numbers and counting during planned and child-led activities by extending the use of number language
- encourage children to develop a greater understanding of the natural environment by providing a wider range of natural resources for them to explore.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff members at appropriate times.
- The inspector sampled children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff, and safeguarding policies and procedures.

Inspector

June Keeler

Inspection findings

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

Staff regularly observe and assess children's development to plan activities that are of interest and relevant to the children. Therefore, children make good progress from their starting points. Staff involve parents in their children's learning. For instance, staff teach children simple sign language and encourage parents to practise this with them at home. Staff provide a range of activities that are stimulating and fun, for instance, having pirate ships in a sea of coloured rice. However, staff do not always make the most of all children's interests and planned adult activities to introduce and model the use of mathematical language. The outside environment provides children with plenty of opportunities to use their imaginative skills. For example, children enjoy acting out their favourite stories using the play equipment in different ways.

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

Children respond very well to the friendly, caring support of staff. This promotes their self-esteem and gives them the confidence to become independent in their learning. All staff know the children well and are consistent in their approach and behaviour expectations this enables the children to feel secure and confident. Children receive ongoing praise and encouragement, which further supports their confidence. For example, during group activities, staff encourage children to interact and independently lead the activity. Children understand the importance of healthy eating and eat a range of healthy fruits at snack time. Staff provide parents with clear guidance for healthy options and ideas for foods to include in their children's packed lunches.

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

The management team understand their roles and responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Regular staff meetings and discussions result in practices which continually evolve to meet the needs of children and their families. Staff receive good support through supervisions and appraisals to further their professional development. Staff that are currently training are encouraged to share their knowledge to shape practice and plan educational programmes. This has a positive impact on the quality of teaching and helps children to make good progress. The staff have good partnerships with external agencies to support the children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities to ensure continuity of learning and care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127073
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836202
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	Fegans
Date of previous inspection	14 February 2011
Telephone number	01843 597777

Buttons Pre-School opened in 1999 and operates from two rooms in a converted shop in Ramsgate. It is open each weekday from 9am to 3.30pm, term time only. The pre-school employs five members of staff, three of whom hold a level 3 qualification. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four.

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