

Colgate Pre-School

Colgate Memorial Hall, Blackhouse Road, Colgate, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6HS



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

8 September 2010

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 members of the management team are highly inspirational and, therefore, they motivate the staff exceptionally well. This fully enhances the outcomes for children's learning and development.
- Children readily enter the pre-school and settle immediately at their chosen play activity, either indoors or in the outdoor area. This is highly effective in supporting children's physical well-being. Children are very independent and confident, which helps them as they move on to the next stage of their learning or school.
- Management develops staff's professionalism through a highly effective training programme. This increases their knowledge and understanding of early childhood development and, therefore, the quality of teaching is excellent. Subsequently, children make very good progress in their learning based upon their starting points.
- Staff develop very secure bonds with children and have excellent partnerships with parents and others providing early years education. This fully enhances consistency in children's learning and development.
- Staff plan an extensive range of activities, resources and experiences for children based upon their interests and next stage in learning. This is slightly less evident in the range of technological resources available to further enhance children's understanding of how things work.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to monitor the availability and use of technological resources to further enhance children's understanding of how things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's development records and key policies.
- The inspector held discussions with parents to seek their views.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the management of the provision.

Inspector

Helen Penticost

Inspection findings

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

Children thrive and flourish in this exceptionally child-friendly environment. They are extremely confident throughout their chosen play experiences. Staff make the most of every opportunity to skilfully enhance children's learning, which helps to ensure they make excellent progress. Children have exceptional opportunities to learn about cooking meals. On the day of the inspection, children thoroughly enjoyed making pizza. They helped to measure out the flour by counting how many spoonfuls they needed and measured the water in a jug, and then kneaded the dough with their hands. Staff introduced new language and encouraged stimulating discussions. For instance, children learned about the differences between dried and fresh herbs, and cheddar and feta cheeses. These excellent activities strengthen children's knowledge of where their food comes from and how to prepare food, while enhancing the development of small muscles.

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

Staff organise the learning environment exceptionally well and children can use both the indoor and outdoor environments as soon as they arrive. This enables children to take the lead in their play and maximises their independence. Children bring items in to show and share with staff and their friends. Staff are highly adept at valuing their contributions. This enables children to develop very high levels of self-esteem. Children develop very close bonds with staff and confidently approach them for support or to talk with them. This successfully enhances children's emotional well-being. Staff use very positive behaviour management techniques, such as encouraging children to think about what may happen as a consequence of their actions. This is highly effective in supporting children's awareness of managing their own behaviour.

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

Staff have an exceptional understanding of their role in protecting children and, therefore, this effectively promotes children's safety and well-being. Highly robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure adults working with the children are suitable to do so. Staff receive ongoing support through very regular supervision sessions, self-assessments and observations by the management team. The manager monitors the provision exceptionally well through collecting data and analysing this to make highly effective plans to target specific areas. She uses this information effectively to close any potential gaps in children's learning. Staff have an ongoing self-evaluation and a systematic process in place to achieve future targets. They have a common sense of purpose to effectively drive and maintain continuous improvement. This practice provides children with consistently high opportunities to achieve and maximise their individual potential.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113443
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	839858
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Colgate Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 September 2010
Telephone number	01293 851606

Colgate Pre-School registered in 1992 and operates in the village hall situated in Colgate, West Sussex. The setting receives funding for two-, three- and four- year olds. The pre-school is open for five days a week, offering morning and afternoon sessions, during term time only. All 10 staff hold an appropriate early years qualification.

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