

Hythe Bay Children's Centre



Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School, Cinque Ports Avenue, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6HS

Inspection date

20 April 2015

Previous inspection date

13 December 2010

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

- Staff establish excellent relationships with parents who feel fully involved in their children's development. This promotes consistency in children's learning extremely well.
- The manager and staff share a highly reflective commitment to ensuring all aspects of the provision are of the very highest standards. This ensures that they continually enrich and enhance the already exceptional provision.
- Staff provide the children with a wealth of opportunities to experience and explore their community, including the beach to learn about the world around them. Although, opportunities for children to be involved in displaying their own work are slightly less evident.
- The manager establishes outstanding relationships with other professionals to support all children and their families. This ensures they support children extremely well with the next stage in their lives.
- Staff use their thorough knowledge of how their key children learn, to teach them how to become independent learners. Consequently, children are very engaged in the activities and make rapid progress in their learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase further the amount of children's art work displayed at children's eye level and encourage children's involvement in displaying their work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint observation.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning throughout the inside and outside area.
- 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 looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff, safeguarding policies and procedures and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

June Keeler

Inspection findings

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

Staff skilfully extend children's understanding of their early literacy skills by writing stories with the children about their activities. For instance, they wrote about building a castle for dinosaurs and dragons. Children learn new words in context and develop an excellent understanding of the way stories are constructed. As a result, children make outstanding progress in their communication and language, and develop skills that they will need in the future when they start school. Staff significantly enhance children's learning about the natural world by providing resources for them to explore, for instance, a piece of honeycomb. Children talked about where the bees found pollen and how bees live in the hive. Children also used mathematical language to name the hexagonal cells. Staff are highly skilled at knowing how to enhance play, when to participate and when to stand back and let children lead their own activities. For instance, when children wanted to make butterfly cakes with modelling dough, the staff member enabled them to cut paper cake cases to make wings for their cakes.

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

The key-group system is highly effective. Staff have a deep understanding of the children in their groups and build a very strong sense of community. This results in children having a clear sense of belonging, which enables them to feel very confident to encourage and support each other. When setting up the extensive outdoor equipment, staff take into account their knowledge that some children are physical learner. They fully incorporate opportunities for children to be extremely active and to engage with physical play outside. This is highly effective in meeting the learning styles of all the children attending. Children's welfare and well-being is at the heart of everything the management and staff provide. All children thrive in the highly supportive environment.

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

The dedication and commitment of the management team mean all staff receive high levels of support. Staff benefit from outstanding professional development opportunities. This includes staff observing each other's practice and learning journal moderations. Staff's recent training has enabled them to provide efficient next steps in learning for children. The management team empower staff to support each other to be reflective and to strive to improve their practice. This means that staff provide excellent learning opportunities for children and make rapid progress in their learning. The manager is highly motivated and exceptionally committed to the improvement of her setting. She engages parents in the process by sending out questionnaires, the results of which are displayed in the hallway. This ensures that parents feel that the manager and staff fully value their views.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127272
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840634
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	69
Number of children on roll	115
Name of provider	Hythe Bay Children's Centre Committee
Date of previous inspection	13 December 2010
Telephone number	01303 267802

Hythe Bay Children's Centre Nursery registered in 2000. The main nursery operates in one building within the Hythe Bay Primary School in the Cinque Ports Avenue area of Hythe. There is also a sessional nursery in a separate building within the registration. The main nursery is open from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round. The separate nursery is open 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday term time only. There are 25 staff who hold level 3 qualification or above. The provider receives funding for free early years education for children aged two three and four.

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