

Perham Down Pre-school

Cachy Buildings, Swinton Barracks, Perham Down,, ANDOVER, Hampshire, SP11 9LQ



Inspection date

20 April 2015

Previous inspection date

4 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

- Management and staff provide a wide and exciting range of activities and resources that captures and sustains children's interests. This results in children making good progress from their starting points at entry.
- Management and staff place high priority on enhancing children's mathematical learning; lots of opportunities are available to develop children's understanding of mathematical ideas and language in a very positive and enjoyable way.
- Children's behaviour is good. Management and staff make their expectations of children clear. This enables children to learn to care appropriately for their environment and the resources within it, as well as developing the ability to take turns and share.
- The management team is strong and leads the pre-school staff team well. Effective self-evaluation systems drive continual improvement in children's development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not have the very highest expectations of children, particularly when playing outdoors, and they miss chances to encourage children to use their imaginations more and think about their experimentation during play.
- Opportunities for children to develop their self-care and independence skills, particularly at snack times, have not yet been fully maximised.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- have the highest expectations of children by seizing chances to encourage them to expand their play when outdoors, particularly when experimenting and using their imaginations
- offer children further opportunities to enjoy the responsibility of carrying out suitable small tasks for themselves, such as serving themselves at snack times and pouring their own drinks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities throughout the pre-school and outside play areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, the self-assessment information, children's observation, assessment and planning records, and documentation linked to managing children's progress.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Julie Swann

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is good. Management and staff regularly observe, track and assess children's learning as they play. They plan associated activities to meet children's individual needs and interests. Parents are continually involved and contribute into their child's record. This ensures continuity of children's progress and development. Children have many opportunities to develop their early literacy, communication and language skills. For example, staff teach children to recognise letters of the alphabet and to link sounds to these, which lays the foundations for decoding words. This means that children are well prepared in readiness for school. Management and staff promote children's creativity well. For example, children confidently drew pictures of roads while telling staff the colours they were using. This promotes their manipulative skills and colour recognition. Children use a well-resourced outdoor area throughout the day, so they get plenty of fresh air. Children enjoyed pretending to be superheroes, balancing on wooden planks and washing the 'pirate ship', but staff missed opportunities to extend learning, for example, by expanding children's thinking about who they were pretending to be.

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

The key-worker role works very effectively. Children are very clear who their special person is and develop extremely strong relationships with them. Management and staff place emphasis on ensuring that new children settle into the daily routines. Therefore, children settle quickly, gain their confidence, and soon show a strong sense of belonging. Staff meet children's physical care needs well. Management and staff help children learn how to stay safe. For instance, clear explanations helped children understand what would happen if they did not use the slide properly. Children enjoy balanced, nutritious snacks. However, not all staff expect children to take responsibility for suitable small tasks before or during mealtimes, such as pouring their own drinks or serving themselves.

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

Management and staff have all attended safeguarding training and are fully aware of what to do if there are any safeguarding concerns. This means that they have a good understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. Staff's ongoing suitability and the quality of teaching are monitored through supervision and an effective programme of training to increase staff skills. This helps staff to maintain good outcomes for all children. Recommendations addressed from the previous inspection help staff to use skilled questioning techniques. Management and staff have strong links with outside professionals, such as speech and language specialists, and work well with schools. For instance, teachers visit the pre-school to meet children before they move, and to discuss their progress with their key person to help the transfer process.

Setting details

Unique reference number	146001
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	841734
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	TNB Garrison Early Years and Play Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 May 2011
Telephone number	01980 843556

Perham Down Pre-school opened in 1980. It is located at Perham Down, at a military base near Upavon. The pre-school is open between 8.30am and 3pm, term time only. There are currently 54 children on roll, all of whom attend for a variety of sessions. The committee employs nine staff. The manager holds a foundation degree in early years and all other staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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