

Kestrel Under Fives Playgroup

Newton Close, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8TR



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

23 April 2015

7 December 2010

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		Outstanding	1
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

- Staff effectively support children's social and emotional development. As a result, relationships between children, their key person and other members of the staff team are very good.
- Children are confident learners. Staff create an exciting and stimulating environment and children are very keen about joining in with activities led well by staff.
- There are highly effective links with other providers and professionals. This enables all agencies to work together and promote children's welfare and learning exceptionally well.
- Children benefit from an inviting outdoor area, where they can choose from a wide range of resources and activities. They explore role play and use their imaginations as they play.
- Staff implement robust risk assessments, adapted to specific areas and activities. As a result, risks and hazards are identified and effectively minimised

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend children's learning effectively, by allowing children sufficient time to respond to questions to further develop their critical thinking skills.
- Staff do not maximise children's early reading skills outdoors by providing books for children to access.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise children's critical thinking skills by allowing sufficient time for children to respond to questions
- provide more opportunities for children to access books outdoors, to further extend their early reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and held discussions with the manager and other members of staff.
- The inspector sampled the playgroup's documentation including a self-evaluation, policies, children's development records, and records of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

Children actively explore within a welcoming and exciting environment with interesting activities both indoors and outdoors. Staff promote children's learning and development very well, so they develop skills in readiness to start school. Children use their good language skills as they communicate together during pretend play in dens created outdoors. Staff effectively develop children's mathematical skills during daily routines and play. Children easily select toys for themselves and resources are clearly labelled with words and pictures to enable children to begin to learn that print conveys meaning. Children develop early writing skills as staff provide many opportunities to practise writing in their play, such as labelling their work and making marks outdoors with water and brushes. Staff gather information from parents, to establish accurate starting points for children's care and learning. Ongoing observations and assessments identify clear next steps in learning, to enable children to make good progress.

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

Children are extremely confident and make excellent progress in developing their personal and social skills. They show high levels of independence in making their own choices during play and attending to their own care needs, such as recognising when they need to wear their coat outside. Children develop extremely close bonds with their key person and form very positive relationships with other children and staff. This promotes their strong sense of well-being and belonging. Staff help children to develop an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children have limitless opportunities to play outdoors and be physically active. For example, in a large area, they eagerly practise their physical skills by rolling tyres up and down a hill. Children also enjoy a variety of healthy snacks and follow very good hygiene routines before eating.

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

The manager is reflective, evaluating the provision to strive for continuous improvement and valuing the views of staff, children and parents. She ensures all staff access regular training. This means their knowledge is continually increased to support children's good progress. The manager and staff have a good understanding of their role in protecting children from harm and procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Robust recruitment procedures and regular supervisions ensure that suitable and skilled staff care for children. Children's progress is constantly monitored; as a result, any gaps are quickly identified and addressed. Staff effectively work in partnership with parents and external agencies, which promotes continuity in learning between the playgroup and home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103816
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	839254
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	71
Name of provider	Kestrel Under Fives Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2010
Telephone number	01634 666716

Kestrel Under Fives Playgroup opened in 1976. It is a community group that is managed by a committee of parents. It operates from a church in Lordswood, Chatham. The playgroup is open from 9.15am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday, term time only. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs 17 members of staff including a book-keeper. Of the staff working directly with the children, 14 hold appropriate early years National Vocation Qualifications. One member of staff has Qualified Teacher Status.

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