

Tots R Us Pre-School

Elvington Primary School, Eythorne, Adelaide Road, DOVER, Kent, CT15 4AN



Inspection date	24 April 2015
Previous inspection date	16 October 2009

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 are skilled at extending children's use of language during play. Counting and identifying shapes during daily routines means children are developing an interest in numbers and shapes. Children's development in all seven areas of learning is promoted well.
- The small staff team work together well. They are committed to continuous improvement identified through regular staff meetings and individual supervision meetings.
- The children settle well on arrival. They are confident explorers of their learning environment and happily seek out their key person or friends.
- Parents are fully involved in their children's learning and development. They share what they have seen their children do at home and enthusiastically engage with suggestions for learning at home provided by their child's key person.
- Partnerships with the local children's centre staff and school teachers are very well established. This helps children, and their parents prepare for the next steps in their learning at pre-school or when they move on to school.
- Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and know what to do should they have a concern about a child's welfare. As a result, children are kept safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Resources to engage children in creative activities are not easily accessible or varied.
- Opportunities for children to dig, plant and grow plants are limited, which means that children are not fully supported to understand where food comes from.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with a wider range of natural, and recycled resources and materials to stimulate their senses and develop their creativity
- extend the range of resources in the outdoor area to enhance opportunities for children to learn about the world around them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the pre-school, the outdoor play area and the school playground used by the children.
- The inspector observed the children at play and spoke with the children and staff during indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents in relation to children's assessment, policies and procedures, staff suitability and the pre-school's self-evaluation documents.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain their views during the inspection.

Inspector

Bernadette Gibbs

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a good mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities covering the seven areas of learning. The quality of teaching is good, meeting the needs of the children. Staff model positive interactions and use questions effectively to help develop children's thinking skills. For example, staff encouraged children to think about why they were 'puffed out' after running around. This helps children to learn about the effect of exercise on their bodies. The staff gather a wealth of information from parents when children start. This means staff have a sound knowledge base from which to plan activities that will interest and extend children's learning. Generally, resources are well organised for children to choose what they would like to play with. However, resources for art and craft are limited and are not easily accessible to allow children free expression in their art work or to make models.

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

Children are happy and secure at the pre-school. They are warmly welcomed and supported by a strong trusting key-person system. Snack time is used to strengthen the bond between children and their key person. Each group comes together to share a healthy variety of foods, such as brown bread and cheese or a selection of fresh fruit. They chat about what they have been doing and what they are going to do next. Good table manners are encouraged, children learn to serve themselves and share with their friends, as well as waiting until others have finished eating before clearing away. Children manage their personal needs well, using the toilet and washing their hands afterwards. This helps children to prepare for the move to school. Parents are enthusiastic in their praise for the staff valuing the information they receive about their children's development. They appreciate the learning at home suggestions provided by their child's key person.

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

A good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and a range of policies and procedure support the staff in ensuring the safety of the children. The manager regularly monitors children's progress across all areas of learning. Where progress is less than expected individual plans are put in place to support and extend learning. Regular supervision meeting are used to monitor and improve practice and to review policies and procedures. This ensures staff remain suitable to work with children. Relevant training is provided to meet the specific needs of children. Observations of the environment and suggestions from parents are used to plan changes to make improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127724
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840704
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Tots R Us Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 October 2009
Telephone number	07944 737 134

Tots R Us Pre-School registered in 1997. It is a committee run group and operates from one main room in a mobile building, located in the grounds of Eythorne and Elvington village primary school, near Dover, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.45am to 3.30pm term time only. The pre-school employs five staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school is registered to receive funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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