

Happy Feet Pre-School

The Hamlets, Noahs Ark Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0DD



Inspection date

28 April 2015

Previous inspection date

21 July 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

- Staff cater very well for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work together with parents and other professionals to support children and help them narrow any gaps in their learning.
- The manager provides opportunities for staff to improve their knowledge and skills by attending training courses. This has a positive impact on children's learning experiences.
- Staff use effective strategies, including sign language, to encourage children to use language in their play. This increases their confidence when communicating.
- Staff have good knowledge and understanding about their responsibility and role with regard to child protection. This ensures they are very aware of how they consistently safeguard all children.
- Staff have established strong links with the local school and other early years settings. This enables a good exchange of information about individual children's learning development and skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children have access to mark-making resources. However, staff do not use all play opportunities to promote and extend children's early writing skills.
- Staff do not always provide activities that routinely challenge and engage the more able children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase activities designed to consistently challenge children of higher abilities
- extend children's experiences for practising their early writing skills in different areas of play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning, throughout the inside and outdoor areas.
- 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 good

The quality of the teaching is good and staff provide interesting learning experiences based on children's interests and development. For instance, several children said they pretended to have an ice cream shop. Staff then provided craft items for children to make 'ice cream cones'. Children choose to play either indoors or outside, and decide which activities they wish to take part in. As a result, children develop their own interests and make decisions, encouraging their problem-solving skills that support their future learning. Staff complete ongoing observations, which enables them to track children's progress effectively and identify next steps in learning. Staff make good use of times when children are in small groups, such as lunch time, to instigate lively conversations. This promotes their communication and language well.

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

Staff give safety a high priority. The manager effectively monitors accidents and carries out risk assessments. This helps keep children safe in all areas of the premises. The staff understand the importance of providing children with physical activities. While alterations outside currently minimise the space, staff use a separate room and provide a bouncy castle and bikes. The staff are very caring and children quickly form secure attachments with them. As a result, children settle confidently, with their individual needs met well. Parents comment that their children receive good quality care. The staff are calm and provide children with meaningful praise, which enhances their well-being and self-esteem.

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

The manager regularly updates her training and improves knowledge and skills. This has a positive impact on children's learning and staff practice. The manager leads her staff team well. Parents speak highly of staff and value the quality of teaching and care they provide. The manager and staff routinely evaluate their practices to ensure they remain effective. Together they decide on development plans and improvements to benefit the children. All staff are qualified in paediatric first aid, so they can easily provide treatment in the event of an accident. There is a robust recruitment process to employ suitable staff. The manager has regular supervision meetings with staff and monitors their performance to identify strengths and weaknesses. This helps the manager identify training needs to ensure children benefit from well-informed staff. The highly qualified leadership team have a positive impact of children's learning outcomes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127223
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836210
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	64
Number of children on roll	110
Name of provider	Happy Feet Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 July 2011
Telephone number	01304 225737

Happy Feet Pre-School registered in 1994. It operates from the Ark Christian Centre in Dover, Kent. The provider receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old. The pre-school opens five days a week, term time only, from 8.45am to 3.30pm. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are 17 staff working with the children. These include a member of staff with Early Years Professional Status, three staff with a relevant qualification at Level 2, and 10 staff who have relevant qualifications between and including Level 3 and Level 7.

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