

Weaving Pre-School

The Village hall, Weaving Street, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5JN



Inspection date	30 April 2015
Previous inspection date	28 June 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

- Children thoroughly enjoy their time at pre-school. Staff make full use of activities and opportunities, indoors and outdoors, to promote children's learning in all areas.
- Older children develop the skills they need ready to start school. Staff encourage them to recognise letters and letter sounds and to practise their early writing skills. Consequently, children are developing good communication, language and literacy skills.
- Staff are good role models. They give children clear, positive instructions so that children understand expectations. As a result, children's behaviour is consistently good.
- Parents are fully involved in their children's learning. Staff share information regarding children's progress and next steps in learning, offering suggestions for parents to support children's learning at home. This enhances a partnership approach.
- The leaders make good use of self-evaluation to drive improvement, gathering the views of staff, children and parents to raise the quality of provision for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children have fewer opportunities to develop their early reading skills outdoors.
- Staff do not always ask children a variety of questions during their play. This means that they sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's thinking skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities for children to see and explore words outdoors, to further promote their early reading skills
- extend the opportunities for children to use their thinking skills during activities, for example, by asking more questions for children to respond to.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to the managers, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including staff suitability records, policies and procedures, children's records and self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken to on the day of 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

Staff provide a stimulating environment with a wide range of interesting and exciting activities. As a result, children have free access to the indoor and outdoor area and they remain engaged in their play, learn new skills and continue to make good progress in their learning. Staff make precise observations and assessments to identify where children are in their development, and focused planning supports children's individual interests. Children are eager to take part in cooking activities. Staff make sure that they each take a turn to help with measuring and mixing the ingredients. Staff support children's mathematical skills effectively, promoting their awareness of number, measure, shape and size. Staff have good relationships with local schools. As a result, children meet their teachers before they start school, which encourages a positive move for children.

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

The pre-school environment is very welcoming and safe. There are stimulating resources stored at children's level. Staff organise all areas well, which supports children's play and learning. As a result, this helps to promote children's good independence skills. Children develop strong relationships with their key person and through positive interactions in activities. Daily snacks are healthy and nutritious. Staff use mealtimes as an opportunity to develop children's self-help skills as they pour their own drinks. Staff extend children's understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise during outdoor play. These developing skills and good enthusiasm for learning encourage children to be ready to start school.

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

The manager has a strong understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and meets all requirements successfully. All staff have received safeguarding training and demonstrate a good understanding of the child protection procedure, should they be concerned regarding a child's welfare. Staff have opportunities to complete regular training to extend their professional development. Staff cascade information to the team to enhance a consistent approach in their practices with children. The manager monitors staff's assessments of children's development. This ensures that any gaps in learning are quickly identified to ensure children make good progress. Safe recruitment procedures are implemented well. All staff are suitably checked before working with the children. The manager monitors staff performance through regular supervision meetings. This enables staff to enhance their practice in order to improve the outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127756
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840709
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Weaving Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	28 June 2011
Telephone number	01622 631274

Weaving Pre-School is managed by a committee. It opened in 1971 and operates from a village hall at Weaving, on the outskirts of Maidstone. The pre-school is open each weekday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, with the option of staying open until 2pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There are 11 members of staff, nine of whom have appropriate National Vocational Qualifications at level 2 and 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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