

Saxon Way Childrens Centre

Church Path, Ingram Road, Gillingham, ME7 1SJ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

7 May 2015

22 November 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		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 provide children with an excellent range of resources for children to explore and investigate. This encourages their curiosity and enhances their play experiences.
- Staff observe and assess children effectively in order to plan further activities to support their learning. Therefore, children make good progress in their learning in relation to their starting points.
- The staff have effective partnership working with parents and other agencies, which supports children's development well. Staff work closely with the adjoining nursery and primary school to help prepare children for their move on to school
- The staff encourage children to play outside to develop their physical skills in the fresh air. Staff help children to learn more about a healthy lifestyle by providing and talking about healthy foods at snack time.
- Staff risk assess the indoor and outdoor environments robustly. Therefore, children remain safe in the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always ensure that the younger children know how to access the very wide range of resources independently. This does not always enable them to confidently take the lead in their play.
- The book corner is not available at all times during the session. Therefore, some children do not have access to a quiet area for stories and books.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the use of the book area for small group work in order to ensure that children are able to access books and stories throughout the session.
- ensure that all children, especially those new to the setting, are familiar with the range of resources available for them to choose.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff playing and interacting with the children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies and procedures, and self-evaluation documents.
- The inspector looked at some of the children's observation records and spoke to staff about children's progress.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff provide children with a good balance of support and challenge when playing with resources. For example, staff help children to balance on crates and logs outdoors which helps their physical development. Staff provide a commentary to the younger children which helps their communication. Staff teach children new vocabulary, for example, they planned an imaginary trip to the moon and they learned the names of planets. This small group work helps them to prepare for moving on to school. Staff teach children to explore materials by encouraging them to mix resources. For example, they washed a doll in coloured water and added shells and cones from the sensory area. The resources are labelled in word and print and staff use visual resources to support individual children.

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

Staff offer constant praise to children, which helps them to feel positive about themselves. Staff reward good behaviour by giving children stickers and by adding their photos to a wall chart. This helps children to learn about behavioural boundaries. Staff encourage children's skills for the future by taking turns to be snack monitor and helping to prepare the garden. Children contribute to their own learning journals by talking about their favourite things at nursery. Key workers meet with parents to discuss their children's progress and to gain their feedback. Parents are able to share their children's progress at home by the recently developed "wow" board. This ensures that staff and parents work together to support children's development and well-being. The staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues and are aware of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns regarding children's welfare. This ensures that children remain safe in the nursery.

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

The well-qualified management team gives self-evaluation a high priority and all staff contribute to the development plan for the nursery. Staff work closely with parents and seek their views to ensure positive outcomes for children. The managers carry out planned observations on all staff. These, along with regular supervision, help them to reflect on and improve their practice further. The well-qualified management team ensures that all staff receive challenge to develop their skills further through effective supervision, observation and training. This helps to continuously improve outcomes for children. The senior staff team tracks children's progress on a termly basis. This helps to alleviate gaps in learning and to ensure that staff plan activities and interventions appropriately for each child. There is a clear recruitment procedure which ensures that all staff are suitable to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY368494
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	986541
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	Saxon Way Primary School Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	22 November 2010
Telephone number	01634 852320

Saxon Way Early Years Centre opened in 2008 and is situated in Gillingham, Kent. It operates from a purpose-built building which adjoins the primary school. The overall manager is the Executive Head of the school. The nursery is open during term time only and offers a morning session, from 8.40am to 11.40am, and an afternoon session from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. There are seven members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting is in receipt of funding for two-, three- and four- year olds.

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