

Saltwood Play and Learning Centre



Saltwood C of E Primary School, Grange Road, Saltwood, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 4QS

Inspection date

1 June 2015

Previous inspection date

23 April 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider has not informed Ofsted of the changes to the individuals on the trustee board. As a result, Ofsted has not been provided with information needed to determine the suitability of all members. This is a breach of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and the Childcare Register.
- All staff do not consistently use opportunities to enhance children's knowledge of sign language. Therefore, staff miss some opportunities to develop the confidence of reluctant speakers or children with communication difficulties.

It has the following strengths

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff provide good-quality, interesting learning experiences that motivate the children into becoming active learners. For example, they use their imaginations in the beach area and when making dough models.
- Staff form good partnerships with parents. They fully engage them in their children's learning, sharing their next steps and offering suggestions for home learning.
- There is strong leadership and a committed team of staff. The continual drive for improvement demonstrates a commitment towards success and positively addresses any areas for development.
- Children have formed strong bonds with staff, which promotes their sense of security, emotional well-being and helps them to be confident explorers of their world.
- Management and staff have a comprehensive understanding of child protection issues and know the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child or member of staff.
- Staff ensure continuity of learning and care with other settings that children attend.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve knowledge of changes that must be notified to Ofsted and ensure relevant information is sent to determine suitability of the trustee board members

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

- strengthen the use of sign language to increase the opportunities for non-verbal or children with language difficulties to communicate.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- inform Ofsted of changes of circumstances as soon as possible (no later than 14 working days after the change occurs) (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- provide Ofsted with the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of all trustees on the board (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- inform Ofsted of changes of circumstances as soon as possible (no later than 14 working days after the change occurs) (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and the quality of teaching both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting and completed a joint observation with the manager of the nursery.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's development records, their self-evaluation form and key policies.
- The inspector listened to the views of a selection of parents.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Maxine Ansell

Inspection findings

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

Children flourish during their time at this friendly nursery. They make good progress in their learning because staff know the children well. Staff plan a range of well-resourced learning experiences for all children. Staff develop children's language skills well. They encourage children to express their ideas, listen to their peers and follow instructions. They develop their vocabulary by labelling objects and engaging children in imaginative play as they enjoy dressing up in their beach role play area. The nursery introduced sign language to begin to support reluctant speakers and children with communication difficulties. Staff encourage parents to learn the signs through their website. However, not all staff consistently use opportunities to teach the signs to children. Staff develop children's early literacy skills well. Children learn the sounds that letters make, attempt to write them and recognise their names in different situations.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

The statutory requirement breach in relation to suitability checks of the trustees does not significantly impact on the welfare of children. This is because they are not left unsupervised with children. There is an effective programme for settling children into the nursery and on to school. The nursery has close links with the local school. Children have opportunities to use their equipment and develop an understanding of school life before they start school. Through the daily routines, children learn about healthy practices and how to keep themselves safe. Children choose from a range of freshly prepared food at snack. They confidently talk about why they need to wash their hands before eating. The children have opportunities to develop their physical skills. They run across the school field and use the larger equipment on the school playground.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The provider failed to inform Ofsted of changes to the trustee board within the required timescale. The manager has effective processes in place for staff supervision and recruitment. This helps ensure that suitable staff work with the children. The manager regularly monitors staff practice. She encourages staff to improve their qualification levels and puts in place suitable training to extend their knowledge. For example, staff attended training to develop their knowledge of how to support two-year-old children. This enabled them to review their routines, resources and activities to support their age appropriate development further. The manager and staff regularly monitor children's progress. They are aware of the learning areas where children do not do as well. This allows them to strengthen these areas, for example, with boys' literacy and ensure they make progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY402676
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	831192
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	52
Name of provider	Saltwood Play and Learning Centre
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2010
Telephone number	01303 266058

Saltwood Play and Learning Centre registered in 2010 and operates in Saltwood, near Hythe, Kent. It is managed by a board of trustees. The nursery operates from 9am to 3pm, during term time. The breakfast club opens from 7.45am to 8.45pm and the after school club for school age children opens from 3.20pm to 6pm. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs 14 staff, of whom eight hold qualifications in childcare at level 3, two hold early years degrees and the manager has Early Years Professional Status. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children.

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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