

# St Hilary's Nursery School

Senacre Community Hall, Titchfield Road, Senacre, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8FX



## Inspection date

15 June 2015

Previous inspection date

5 April 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. The staff effectively question children about what they are doing to help them think and learn to solve problems to extend their play.
- Children play in a well-equipped environment. They choose from an interesting and varied range of activities catering for their needs both indoors and outside. This means children develop good decision making skills.
- Staff teach children about safe play and how to recognise hazards. For example, children take extra care as they climb on and off the trampoline and the large airplane activity equipment in the garden. Children learn to take risks as they play.
- Children build good relationships with staff because they are interested in them, listen to their requests and meet their needs. Therefore, children are happy and emotionally settled.
- The staff have a good understanding of their role to safeguard children. They know the reporting procedures well. Therefore, they effectively promote children's well-being.
- The self-evaluation plan takes account of the views of staff, parents and children to identify changes to improve the outcomes for children.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently share information with parents about how they help children to prepare for their move to school. Therefore, although parents know their children's levels of learning and development, they are not as clear about the skills children learn to ensure they are ready for school.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the range of information shared with parents about how staff prepare children for their move to school.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a variety of paperwork, including the safeguarding policy and children's progress records.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children indoors and outside.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a short joint observation in the garden.
- The inspector talked to the manager, staff, children and parents to gain their views of the setting.

### Inspector

Linda Coccia

## Inspection findings

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

Children are proficient at recognising letters and shapes. For example, they can pick out their own name card at snack time. The staff effectively question children about different mathematical concepts. Children learn that some items are heavier or lighter than others, and the amount of water needed to fill beakers during water play. Therefore, children are able to make different mathematical comparisons. Staff are competent at observing and assessing children's abilities and identifying children's next steps. They use these effectively to inform the activity planning of each child's individual needs. Staff track children's progress to ensure all children are making good progress given their starting points and capabilities. Staff recognise that children who are due to start school need additional help to be confident about the changes. Therefore, they increase the use of games to promote team work and increase children's attention and listening skills.

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

Children learn to lead healthy lifestyles. They engage in extensive physical activity in the garden, in all weathers. During snack times, children talk to staff about food and how it affects their bodies. Children are independent at snack time. They serve themselves from the choices of food available and pour their own drinks. They understand the need to wash their hands before a snack and after taking themselves to the toilet. This means they practice good hygiene procedures, which prepares them for their move to school. The staff rigorously clean the play areas every day to protect children from cross-contamination. They conduct good daily risk assessments of the premises and toys to ensure children are kept physically safe. This supports children's welfare and well-being.

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

The provider provides good opportunities for staff to develop their professional skills. Recent staff training in extending the outdoor provision has had a good impact on the children. Children talk more about nature as they watch the wildlife in the newly constructed natural garden area. The manager fosters good relationships with other health and education professionals; for example, speech and language professionals. They work effectively together to support those children who need additional help to make progress in their development and/or learning. Partnerships with parents are good. Those parents interviewed report that overall, they are happy with the service provided. They report they receive good information about how the setting operates. They participate in regular reviews of their children's learning and know they can discuss their children with their key person or the manager at any time.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127588
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	840677
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	35
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	39
<b>Name of provider</b>	St Hilary's Nursery School Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	5 April 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01622 355965

St Hilary's Nursery School registered in 1982. It operates from one large room in a Skills Centre, in the Senacre area of Maidstone, Kent. The nursery school is open each weekday from 8.30am to 11.30am and 12pm to 3pm for 39 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery school employs eight staff; of these, seven staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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