

Cygnets Pre School/Nursery

Swanscombe Town Council, Council Offices & Community Hall, The Grove,
Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0GA



Inspection date	22 June 2015
Previous inspection date	4 March 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

- Managers effectively promote children's care, welfare and learning. They regularly evaluate the quality of the pre-school provision and continuously implement improvements that benefit the children.
- Staff assess children's progress effectively to help to ensure they are fully aware of the developmental stages for each child. They plan efficiently for children's next steps in learning. As a result, children make good progress and are ready for the next stage in their learning.
- Children have high levels of confidence and independence. They choose from a good variety of resources to support their play and interests.
- Staff provide a friendly and welcoming environment. They have good relationships with children and get to know them well. As a result, children settle well and are happy in their learning.
- Managers implement an effective programme of professional development to help staff improve their knowledge and practice. This includes regular training and supervision sessions. The staff team has a positive attitude to continual development. They reflect on what they do well and identify key areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of activities to further develop children's number recognition and counting skills.
- Staff do not always use the outdoor area to its full potential to further support children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the opportunities for children to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts to extend their number recognition and counting skills
- review how the outdoor space is organised to further support children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector held conversations with the chair of the committee, manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's observations, planning and assessment records.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Ann Murray

Inspection findings

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

Staff teach children a wide range of useful skills that effectively prepare them for school. Children benefit from the small size of the pre-school and receive a good level of staff attention. Staff observe and monitor children's development closely. This helps them to plan activities that motivate and engage children and to identify any areas where they need extra support. Staff talk to children as they play to support their communication and language skills. They encourage conversations and provide opportunities for all children to contribute to discussions. Staff make effective use of resources to develop children's imaginative skills. For example, children pretended to have a picnic and enjoyed laying out the food and talking about the drinks they would like. Children have fun learning outside. Staff build on their interests well, such as helping them search for ants using magnifying glasses.

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

Staff offer children warm, consistent guidance and support that successfully promotes their emotional and physical well-being. There is a fun, purposeful atmosphere at the pre-school. Children settle well and show confidence in their understanding of behaviour and routines. Staff promote children's independence well during daily routines, such as during snack time when they pour their own drinks. Staff supervise children closely and make daily checks of the environment to ensure it is safe. They implement highly effective arrangements to care for children and promote their well-being successfully. Children enjoy exercise in the garden each day, as part of a healthy lifestyle.

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

Staff have a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. They have a thorough understanding of how children learn. The manager closely monitors the delivery of the educational programmes to ensure children make good progress. Managers evaluate their practice through regular communication with parents, children and other professionals. They liaise effectively with other early years settings to share information about children's care and learning; this promotes consistency in children's development. The manager has effective procedures for recruitment to ensure all new staff are suitable to work with children. All staff attend child protection training and understand the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child's welfare. This helps safeguard children. Management and staff have positive relationships with parents. They involve them in all aspects of children's care and learning, which contributes towards children feeling safe and their needs being met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350289
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	835284
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	Cygnets Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2011
Telephone number	077788 66051 or 01322 386111

Cygnets Pre School/Nursery registered in 2007. It is situated in Swanscombe, Kent. The pre-school opens during term times for five days each week from 8.45am until 11.45am and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. There are seven staff who work directly with the children, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four years old.

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