

Speldhurst Nursery School

Village Hall, St. Marys Lane, Speldhurst, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN3 0PR



Inspection date

22 June 2015

Previous inspection date

12 January 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

- Staff make effective use of assessment to clearly identify children's development needs and encourage parent input. Staff use the information to plan for their key children's individual needs so children progress well.
- Children develop good levels of confidence and this helps to prepare them for school.
- Children learn to be healthy as they pick the fruits and vegetables they help grow in the garden. Children use the outdoor area in all weathers and benefit from lots of fresh air and exercise.
- Staff safeguard children well. The manager regularly reviews their child protection knowledge through questionnaires and during staff meetings.
- The staff provide a well-organised environment that stimulates learning in all areas and promotes independence.
- The manager monitors children's progress and makes improvements to staff practice through training and encouraging staff to learn from each other.
- The staff have strong links with other early years providers. This enables effective communication to ensure children's care and learning is consistent.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use skilful questions to extend children's thoughts and ideas.
- Some daily routines, such as snack time, do not fully promote children's independence or consistently challenge their learning by involving them more.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve staff use of skilful questions to extend children's learning and develop their ideas
- continue to encourage children's independence throughout daily routines and ensure staff consistently promote children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of parents' views spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Kerry Lynn

Inspection findings

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

Children learn through exciting activities that provide challenge. For example, they work out how to make cars 'loop the loop' on a track. Children benefit from outside learning. They solve problems as they work out how to fill thermos flasks with mud. Children play creatively as they build 'aeroplanes' with large blocks and go on pretend journeys. They focus on their play because they lead it. Children develop key skills for later learning. For example, they learn how to write their name and learn letter sounds. Children love stories and are often seen to ask staff to read to them. Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents feel well informed on their children's progress and follow up children's learning at home. Staff seek guidance from other professionals for children who need extra support to ensure they make progress.

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

Children are emotionally secure in their relationships with staff. Staff value children as individuals as they talk to them about their lives and families. Children play well together and engage in conversations. For example, children explain to others that they have made 'chocolate chip muffins' when playing in the mud kitchen. The staff successfully manage to support the needs of boys as they turn boisterous behaviours into positive play. For example, when children want to engage in 'weapon play', they have to get pretend licenses. They discuss the rules with staff and 'sign' to say they will abide by them. This enables children to be in charge of their own behaviour and exert high levels of self-control. There are strong relationships with local schools and this helps children with a smooth move to school. Staff ensure schools are well informed about children's needs and arrange several visits so new teachers are familiar to them.

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

The well-qualified manager regularly reflects on practices to raise standards. She engages staff and parents in the evaluation process to look for improvements. As a result, the day runs smoothly and children benefit from happy staff. The manager takes many opportunities to support staff in their professional development. She uses effective supervisions and appraisals to assess staff needs. The manager gives staff responsibilities to build on their confident practice. She provides opportunities for staff to attend courses and complete qualifications. They share their new knowledge to improve everyone's practice as they implement changes. For example, by using children's interests more to enhance their learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY412022
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	831969
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Elizabeth Sarah Pannell
Date of previous inspection	12 January 2011
Telephone number	01892 860 577

Speldhurst Nursery School is privately owned and registered in 2010. The nursery operates from the village hall in Speldhurst, Kent. It is open during term time on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm, and on Thursday from 9am to 12 noon. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. There are 11 staff and of these, eight have relevant early years qualifications. This includes six staff with qualifications at level 3 and the manager has Qualified Teacher Status.

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