

Mendlesham Pre-school

Small Hall, Community Centre, Old Station Road, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk,
IP14 5RT



Inspection date

16 June 2015

Previous inspection date

14 July 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		Good	2
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 manager has not kept a record of every member of staff's qualification and ensured there is a copy of every member of staff's details. This includes their name, home address and telephone number.
- The committee has not made Ofsted aware of the current nominated person and changes to committee members, in a timely manner.

It has the following strengths

- Partnerships with parents are strong. They are kept well informed of their children's progress and are provided with opportunities to play an active role in their learning.
- Staff enthuse and motivate children to learn. The information gained from observations and assessments is used to plan challenging activities to support children's progress in all areas of learning.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from strong support due to clear, professional links with other specialist agencies and parents.
- Training and staff qualifications have had a positive impact on the quality of teaching. The manager encourages staff to undertake further training, so that they can continue to evaluate the setting and strive forward.
- Children who favour the outside learning space have been helped to make good progress. This is because the manager and committee have worked together to develop the space. This is having a positive impact on children's physical and emotional well-being.
- Staff have a clear understanding of the safeguarding policies and procedures. They are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern about a child, or if an allegation is made against a member of staff.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure there is a record of every staff member's qualifications
- keep a record of each staff member's details, this includes, their name, home address and telephone number.

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

- ensure the registered person informs Ofsted of changes of circumstance, as soon as they can, and no later than 14 days after the change occurs, this includes changes to the nominated person of the childcare provision and any changes to registered people (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure the registered person has the following information, staff's name, home address and telephone number, so that there is a record of every person working on the premises on which childcare is provided (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure the registered person informs Ofsted of changes of circumstance, as soon as they can, and no later than 14 days after the change occurs, this includes changes to the nominated person of the childcare provision and any changes to registered people (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure the registered person has the following information, staff's name, home address and telephone number, so that there is a record of every person working on the premises on which childcare is provided (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playroom and the outside learning space.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with a staff member.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and chair of the committee.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and registration documents.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took into account of the written views of parents and those spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Kerr Cobbett

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 good. Staff provide children with a wide variety of exciting activities and learning experiences that spark their imagination. For example, when indoors, children join in an activity that promotes their understanding of how volcanoes erupt. Older children show a very keen interest in the experiment, and staff promote the learning outcomes well. As a result of these well-planned activities, children make good progress. Children's communication and language skills are well promoted throughout the pre-school. Staff interact well with children and engage in discussion throughout their play. Staff model language for younger children effectively and build on their key children's individual stages of development. Older children are well prepared for their next stage in learning, such as school. Staff know how to carefully question children, and offer them appropriate challenge. Children share the dinner hall with the local school, which means children moving up to this particular school become familiar with the environment and adults.

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

The strong skills of staff ensure all children are emotionally well supported throughout their time at the pre-school. Staff are caring and attentive to children's needs. They support children's behaviour very well and act as good role models. They give children positive, clear instructions, so that children know what is expected, while allowing them to follow their own ideas. There are a wide range of resources, which enable children to be independent. Children freely transport toys from inside to the outside play space, which allows them to explore and extend their own learning. Snack time is well organised by staff, and fully promotes children's understanding of healthy eating. Staff provide children with small trays, with prepared fruit in, which children go to collect independently. Staff include number recognition as part of this daily routine. Staff sit with children and have lots of discussions that lead on to other activities.

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

The manager monitors children's progress well, and uses her knowledge of individual children to help staff attend relevant training. This ensures the pre-school fully meets children's learning and development needs. The manager carries out appropriate suitability checks and an induction procedure for each new staff member. She also undertakes regular supervisions. However, the manager has not ensured that the documentation she gathers for one member of staff includes, keeping a record of their details, such as their name, home address and telephone number. The manager has not kept an accurate record of one other member of staff's qualification. The committee does not have a secure enough understanding of all of their responsibilities. Consequently, they have failed to inform Ofsted of a change to the nominated person and members of the management committee in a timely manner. The committee members have supported the manager to develop the outside area. This has had a positive impact on children's experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	508616
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	869365
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Mendlesham Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2010
Telephone number	01449 766041

Mendlesham Pre-school opened in the 1970s and is managed by a voluntary management committee. The pre-school opens from 9am to 11.30am, with a lunch club from 11.30am to 12.45pm. The afternoon session runs from 12.45pm to 3.15pm. Sessions are Monday to Friday, term time only. There are five members of staff employed at the pre-school, four of whom hold a relevant qualification at level 2 and above. The pre-school supports children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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