

Culverstone Pre-School Group

Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0RF



Inspection date

26 June 2015

Previous inspection date

4 March 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 kept Ofsted informed of changes to the committee. This is an offence and breaches a requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Staff do not maintain an accurate record of children's attendance to show the hours they attend. Therefore, staff cannot be sure about individual arrival and departure times to make sure children are safe at all times.

It has the following strengths

- Children develop good physical development because staff provide a wide range of opportunities to promote this.
- Children gain early literacy skills as staff use letter sounds well for children to make connections. These are important skills for their future learning.
- Children show high levels of self-esteem and confidence. They are keen to talk to adults and other children. This means they feel emotionally safe and secure.
- Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection procedures. As a result, they know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide Ofsted with the information needed to determine the suitability of the new committee members
- maintain an accurate daily record of all children's hours of attendance.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning and development, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with the provider, staff and children.
- The inspector and provider carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation including children's records, policies and attendance records.
- The inspector spoke with a selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sarah Stephens

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress in their learning, supported by well-qualified staff. Staff make regular assessments of children's learning to plan relevant activities suited to their individual needs and interests. Children learn about the natural environment in the outside area as they investigate under logs and leaves with magnifying glasses. Staff follow children's emerging interests and extend their learning, for example, by reading books relevant to their experiences. This maintains children's interest and motivates them to learn. Staff use their training to enhance children's mathematical skills by introducing a range of language, such as 'short', 'heavy' and 'more than'. Children learn to use their creative thinking skills because staff ask skilful questions and allow children time to think. Staff fully involve parents in their children's learning through regular discussions.

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

The breach of the statutory requirement compromises children's welfare because Ofsted has not been kept informed of committee changes in order for suitability checks to be completed. However, the impact is minimal as the adults do not have unsupervised access to children. Children explore their surroundings freely because of a well-resourced and accessible environment. They learn about healthy lifestyles as staff provide nutritious options at snack time. Children pour their own drinks and spread butter on their crackers to help them develop independence. They regularly access the outside space and benefit from the fresh air and exercise. Staff work closely with the onsite school so that children can attend lunchtimes, physical education sessions and story times. This helps prepare children well for the move to school.

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

The provider failed to notify Ofsted of committee changes and there is no accurate record of children's attendance hours. She involves others in the pre-school's self-evaluation to highlight strengths and make practice improvements. However, she did not recognise that she did not meet all of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. The provider monitors children's progress through effective tracking systems to highlight individual needs. Children receive the support they need through close partnership working with parents and other professionals. This means appropriate development plans help to ensure that staff close any learning gaps. The provider monitors the quality of teaching through observations and staff supervisions. Therefore, she easily identifies areas for staff training and development. There are good development plans to improve children's learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127134
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840616
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	51
Name of provider	T A D S A D Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2010
Telephone number	01732 822883

Culverstone Pre-School Group is committee run and registered in 1980. It is situated in Meopham, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday, term time only, from 8.35am to 3.15pm, except for Thursday when it closes at 12 noon. It is in receipt of funding for free early education for children age two, three and four years. The pre-school employs eight members of staff, seven of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. This includes two at degree level, four with a level 3 and one with a level 2 qualification.

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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