

Playpen Pre-School

Meopham Community Academy, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0JW



Inspection date

1 October 2015

Previous inspection date

28 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team has an exceptional understanding of working in close partnership with parents and other professionals. They consistently share children's achievements and next learning steps.
- Staff are able to access timely interventions very effectively to support children's development through a rigorous monitoring system.
- The management and staff complete meticulous assessments of children's progress. As a result, they are able to provide challenging learning opportunities that ensure children make outstanding progress from their starting points.
- Staff provide an exceptionally good choice of play experiences, both indoors and outdoors. Children are enthusiastic and motivated as they play and use their imagination extremely well.
- An effective key-person system supports children's emotional well-being extremely well. Staff are highly sensitive to children's needs as they form very secure relationships.
- Staff minimise possible hazards to children through a meticulous system of risk assessments and daily checks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to strengthen children's excellent language skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises.
- The inspector observed staff and children's interactions and the care routines.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and discussed the impact of teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled some documents, including assessment records, learning journals and the suitability checks.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children and discussed their involvement in the self-evaluation process.

Inspector

Alberta Minta-Jacobs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team discusses and identifies staff's development needs through a highly effective supervision system. They provide excellent coaching and access training that continuously strengthens the quality of teaching. They use the expertise of other professionals where necessary to help staff rapidly address and close any achievement gaps. The self-evaluation process is highly reflective and engages the views of parents, children and staff. Therefore, management is able to focus on highly successful areas for continuous improvement. All staff have an excellent knowledge of child protection issues to promote the welfare of children exceptionally well. For example, staff teach children how to keep safe when using the internet. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's qualifications support their excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. Staff provide highly challenging and engaging activities to support individual children in all areas of learning. They use their exceptional knowledge of children's stage of development to extend their learning, such as asking thought-provoking questions. However, on occasions they do not use the best vocabulary for children to learn from, such as 'doggie'. Staff talk to children about their play choices as this encourages children's enthusiasm to extend their learning. For example, staff explained the life cycle of a butterfly and encouraged children to share their knowledge about other creatures. Children were thoroughly engaged as they used their communication skills and shared their awareness of the natural world. Consequently, children develop the skills they need for the next stage of learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff work extremely hard to encourage children's independence, such as attending to their hygiene needs. Staff are excellent as they model expected behaviours and encourage children to express how they feel. As a result, behaviour is exemplary. Staff provide exceptional resources and opportunities to promote children's growing understanding of people's differences in the wider community. They provide excellent support to help children learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle. For example, children routinely engage in physical exercise as they play outside. Staff help children learn about the need for a nutritious diet and the effect this has on their body. Children benefit from an excellent choice of healthy snacks and meals that support their physical well-being.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress towards the early learning goals. Some children exceed levels typical for their age. They are highly confident and independent in social situations, which is very significant as it supports their readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348751
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	827614
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Playpen Pre-School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 November 2011
Telephone number	01474 815 403

Playpen Pre-school registered in 2003 and is situated in Meopham, Kent. The pre-school opens from 8.45am until 3.15pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 8.45am to 12.45pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, term time only. The pre-school is funded for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs eight members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above.

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