

Mereworth Pre-school

Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 5QD



Inspection date 22 October 2015
Previous inspection date 6 July 2010

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 uses exceptional ways to keep parents' and staff's knowledge up to date about changes in safeguarding issues. This enables staff and parents to use a joint approach to promote the welfare and safety of children.
- The management, staff and parents work in collaboration to identify children's starting points. This helps staff to support children's learning based on an excellent knowledge of their individual stage of development.
- The management and staff have strong working relationships with parents and with professionals in other settings. This helps to secure expertise and knowledge to ensure that children continue to make outstanding progress in relation to their starting points.
- The management team uses innovative ways to keep staff's knowledge of childcare practices up to date through a highly effective training programme. This has a significant impact on outcomes for children.
- Staff provide high-quality resources, toys and a nurturing environment that motivate and help children to value diversity. This helps children to learn about differences in people and life in Britain.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage children to learn more about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises.
- The inspector observed staff interaction with children.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and evaluated the impact of staff's interaction.
- The inspector sampled the required documents, including the suitability checks and paediatric first aid certificates.
- The inspector discussed the pre-school's self-evaluation process. She spoke to parents, children and staff.

Inspector

Alberta Minta-Jacobs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team rigorously evaluates the impact of teaching and learning through extremely effective staff supervision. They have sustained the high quality of the provision. The management and staff monitor children's progress very successfully. They liaise closely with outside agencies where necessary to help close any achievement gaps in children's learning. The team is enthusiastic about maintaining an outstanding provision through highly reflective self-evaluation, which includes the views of parents, children and staff. Staff have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding procedures. This helps to promote the welfare and safety of children. Staff implement meticulous risk assessments and teach children how to keep themselves safe and manage risk. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are well qualified, have excellent experience and a secure knowledge of how children learn and develop. They provide highly challenging and inspiring learning experiences that support children's interests in all areas of learning. They use their thorough knowledge of each child's stage of development extremely well. At the inspection, staff encouraged children to describe their paintings. Children used their excellent communication skills and developing vocabulary to explain what they had created. Staff provide exceptional activities that thoroughly support children's development of literacy skills. For example, staff engaged children in reading stories and asked thought-provoking questions. Staff routinely involve parents in their child's development and progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely patient and sensitive to individual children's care needs. A highly effective key-person system helps to promote children's emotional well-being. They feel secure, happy and confident to explore the highly stimulating environment using their imagination. Staff help children to understand how to behave well. Children happily share and take turns and their behaviour is exemplary. Staff routinely encourage children to enjoy exercise both indoors and outdoors, and provide healthy snacks. However, staff do not use every opportunity to develop children's understanding of the importance of exercise and a healthy diet on their body. Children have high levels of confidence and independence as they choose their play and develop self-care skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress towards the early learning goals. Some children exceed levels typical for their age. All children develop excellent skills which prepare them extremely well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127376
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825417
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Mereworth Pre-school Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2010
Telephone number	01622 297040

Mereworth Pre-School registered in 1990. It operates from a hall in Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent. The pre-school opens on weekdays during term time only. It opens from 9.15am until 3pm on Monday and Wednesday, from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 9.15am to 12.45pm on Friday. It provides free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs 10 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 4. It has links with local schools and children's centres.

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