

# Horsmonden Kindergarten

Frances Austen Memorial Hall, Back Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 8NJ



## Inspection date

8 January 2016

Previous inspection date

18 March 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 committee and the management team provide exceptionally strong leadership to maintain high standards within a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment. They inspire staff who have a wealth of ideas on how to develop children's learning and development. Staff are innovative in their practice.
- The quality of teaching is excellent. Staff place a strong focus on developing the provision. They are enthusiastic, highly reflective and exceptionally keen to improve outcomes for children.
- There are excellent partnerships with parents, carers and other agencies to support children's individual needs. Children clearly demonstrate that they feel happy, confident and secure in the kindergarten.
- Staff meticulously assess and monitor children's progress and regularly share ideas for developing the next steps in learning with parents. This helps parents to support learning well at home.
- There are highly effective systems to monitor staff performance and to identify training needs. Very thorough and regular evaluation incorporates the views of all concerned with the kindergarten and informs future initiatives.
- Staff provide high-quality resources and activities that encourage children to experiment in their learning. Children are motivated learners.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- extend children's learning experiences even further by giving them more individual responsibilities when planning activities.

### **Inspection activities**

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors to assess the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the supervisor.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children and took account of their views.
- The inspector held interviews with the supervisors, the deputy manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled a wide range of documentation.

### **Inspector**

Annette Blundred

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The dedicated managers are highly committed to developing their own skills and those of the staff. More experienced staff support those who are currently studying for qualifications. Managers support all staff exceptionally well. They offer regular supervision, consultation and access to training. Highly effective links with other early years settings help staff to share good practice. There are excellent links with the local school to provide continuity when children start. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a thorough knowledge of child protection procedures. Managers have robust systems to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. They carry out rigorous daily checks and detailed risk assessments in order to keep children safe.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have a secure knowledge of how children learn and develop. They are extremely effective in helping children to develop their thinking and problem solving skills. Staff make excellent use of visual prompts and signs help children to communicate and to understand the routines of the day. Staff develop children's literacy and numeracy skills extremely well. For example, they provide numerous spontaneous opportunities for them to practise their early writing skills, to count and to experiment with shape, space and measurement during their play. Children choose resources independently and they explore and play imaginatively. However, staff do not always make the most of opportunities to involve children in planning and organising some of the group activities. Staff promptly identify any emerging gaps in the learning of individuals and groups of children and target support effectively. For example, following recent training, staff have introduced more challenging activities for those children who prefer to learn outdoors. Outdoor learning is particularly popular with the boys in the kindergarten. All children thoroughly enjoy their learning.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff get to know children extremely well. A highly effective key-person system and clearly defined settling-in procedures help to promote children's sense of security and well-being. Children behave exceptionally well. Staff remind them to consider others, to take turns and to share the equipment fairly. Parents comment that children rapidly develop self-confidence as they learn to negotiate and play cooperatively. Staff teach children about exercise, healthy eating and the importance of health and hygiene. They promote independence exceptionally well and children are very competent in their self-care skills. Staff routinely teach them to assess risk to keep themselves safe.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their initial starting points. Staff prepare children exceptionally well for the next stage of their learning and for starting school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127261
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	825406
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	38
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	42
<b>Name of provider</b>	Horsmonden Kindergarten Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	18 March 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01892 724805

Horsmonden Kindergarten registered in 1992. It operates from the village of Horsmonden, Kent. The kindergarten opens Monday to Friday during term time, with morning sessions running from 9am to 12 noon. Lunch sessions are also offered, followed by an afternoon session from 1pm until 3.30pm. The kindergarten is in receipt of funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are currently nine staff employed to work with the children; of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The kindergarten also employs an administrator.

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