

The Rainbow Ark Pre-School

Mundella Primary School, Black Bull Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5QX

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| Inspection date | 12 January 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 23 February 2015 |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Requires Improvement | 3 |
| Effectiveness of the leadership and management | | Good | 2 |
| Quality of teaching, learning and assessment | | Good | 2 |
| Personal development, behaviour and welfare | | Good | 2 |
| Outcomes for children | | Good | 2 |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff interact with children very well. They display a good understanding of children's individual needs and promote their well-being, learning and welfare effectively.
- Children behave very well. Staff give them clear reminders of what is and what is not acceptable in their behaviour and play. This helps children to quickly learn what is expected of them and how to manage their own behaviour.
- There are plenty of opportunities available for children to play as a team, for example, during physical games. This helps them develop a good understanding of the need to take turns, while also promoting their muscle development.
- Children are motivated and keen to learn and join in with a variety of activities. They develop key skills for the next stage in their lives.
- Partnerships with other key organisations are effective. Children receive the support they need to help in their development.
- The staff team works very well together. The day-to-day operation and organisation of the provision are effective in meeting the needs of all the children who attend.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The outside area is not always as well resourced as the indoor area to provide the same choice in activities for children.
- Staff do not always use a wide variety of methods to fully encourage all parents to contribute information about their child's development and achievements at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the environment to enable children who learn best outdoors to extend their play and learning further
- explore further ways to encourage parents to contribute information about their children's achievements and progress in their development at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to the provider, manager and members of staff.
- The inspector sampled records and documents.
- The inspector observed and talked to the children and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback about the pre-school.

Inspector

Mary Vandepeer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of child protection procedures. All staff display a thorough understanding of what to do should they have any concerns regarding children's well-being and welfare. This helps to protect children. Staff regularly attend training to continually develop their childcare knowledge and practice. This contributes to a positive impact on the learning outcomes for children. A robust recruitment and ongoing monitoring system helps to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. They have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Parents speak well of the nursery and state that staff are caring and supportive. They confirm that their children are very happy and settled. The manager uses an effective self-evaluation process, which includes the views of staff, children and some parents. This helps them to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Most staff are qualified and all are experienced in childcare and use their knowledge to good effect. This helps to make a positive impact on children's learning. The manager and staff regularly observe children and track their progress. This helps them to identify and close any gaps in children's learning. Staff are committed to helping children extend their language and communication development. Children develop thinking and independence skills. For example, staff provide activities, including snack time, where children make their own choices. Staff also ask a range of questions to assist in encouraging children's own ideas. Children benefit from fun and stimulating play experiences that staff provide indoors. Children have many opportunities to strengthen their early literacy skills. For example, they see print around the environment and access writing materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children new to the pre-school settle very quickly into the warm and welcoming environment. Staff take the time to get to know parents' and children's backgrounds. This helps in developing strong relationships with children and their families. Children's emotional well-being is given good attention and this provides a safe foundation for their learning and development. For example, staff give children plenty of praise, which helps promote children's sense of achievement. Children play well together and form strong friendships, developing skills ready to start school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children enjoy and have fun in this caring, welcoming and stimulating pre-school. They make good progress in their development in readiness for their next stage in learning.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY423461 |
| Local authority | Kent |
| Inspection number | 1008077 |
| Type of provision | Sessional provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register |
| Age range of children | 2 - 5 |
| Total number of places | 22 |
| Number of children on roll | 10 |
| Name of provider | Folkestone Rainbow Centre |
| Date of previous inspection | 23 February 2015 |
| Telephone number | 07979323260 |

Rainbow Ark Pre-school registered in 2011. It operates from Mundella Primary School, in Folkestone, Kent. The pre-school is open all week, term time only, from 9am to 12 noon. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are four members of staff, three of whom are qualified at level 2 and 3. The provider holds a degree level qualification.

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