

Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten



Ham Street Primary Academy, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2EA

Inspection date	22 January 2016
Previous inspection date	11 May 2009

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 highly effective systems for monitoring and evaluating practices that involve staff, parents and children. The high standards for improvement ensure that all staff receive the right training and individual support to provide a highly stimulating and welcoming environment in which children make excellent progress.
- There are nurturing and close relationships between all children, staff and parents. Adults work very closely together as they share high-quality information to support children's interests and needs. The consistency of care between home and the kindergarten is significant and completely encourages children to feel secure.
- Staff are highly skilled in supporting children's learning and development. Exciting and stimulating resources and activities enable all children to be highly absorbed and fully engaged in their play. The excellent teaching helps children to become skilled and ready for the next stage in their learning.
- Children display significantly high levels of good behaviour. Staff reinforce positive behaviours, such as using specific praise to encourage children to make good choices. Children treat each other, their teachers and the environment with respect.
- An inspirational partnership with the school positively impacts on children's learning and development. Children move confidently between the school and kindergarten, for example, as they share the exciting and highly stimulating environments.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend and share the excellent knowledge and professional skills of staff.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with parents and carers, and sampled parent questionnaires.
- The inspector observed activities in the rooms and garden.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff, and held meetings with the manager and committee representative.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Alison Martin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff have an extremely good knowledge of possible concerns and of the procedures to follow if there are concerns about children's welfare. Leaders work exceptionally well together to promote practices that highly motivate all children to learn. With an extensive knowledge of how children learn, they lead the well-qualified staff who put children's welfare and development at the heart of their practice. To maintain the high quality of their provision, they accurately identify development areas, such as improving shared knowledge and skills. Management and staff complete precise and extremely thorough monitoring of children's progress to address any learning gaps rapidly. For example, they recently improved the teaching of mathematics. There are excellent relationships with other early years professionals to help promote effective care and outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is highly effective and based on an excellent knowledge of the needs and interests of children. Staff plan rich and challenging experiences that extend learning opportunities for children. They give children time and space to discover things for themselves and have fun. For example, the garden is inspirational and children enjoy the freedom and challenges it provides, whatever the weather. Parents highly value the opportunities that staff create for them to actively support and engage with their children's learning. For example, they add comments and upload photographs from home onto their children's personal profiles. Staff make use of this information when setting realistic targets for children, who make excellent progress from their starting points. The extremely well-prepared individual plans enable all children to meet, and in some cases exceed, their own learning targets, including children with special educational needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The extremely attentive and nurturing staff help ensure children feel valued and safe. They are highly positive role models who encourage children to develop emotional security. For example, children effectively and appropriately control their own feelings and behaviour towards others. Children have excellent opportunities to develop their physical skills, such as in the outdoor area and during regular trips to the woods. Staff promote children's physical well-being with nourishing home-cooked meals and very healthy snacks.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make excellent progress in their learning and development from their starting points. They become very independent and enthusiastic learners. They are exceptionally confident and emotionally secure, with skills to support their learning in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127250
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825404
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Highways At Hamstreet
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2009
Telephone number	01233 732 915

Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten registered in 2001 and is managed by a committee. It operates from a building within the grounds of Hamstreet Primary School in Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent, and links with the school are established. The kindergarten operates Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 3.30pm, during school term time only. It receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years. The kindergarten provider employs nine staff members; of these, eight have relevant early years qualifications. This includes two staff with level 6 qualifications and one member of staff with Qualified Teacher Status.

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