

Cootham Pre-School

Cootham Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Cootham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 4JX



Inspection date

29 January 2016

Previous inspection date

4 May 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 quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff utilise every opportunity to strengthen children's knowledge and understanding. They have an exceptional knowledge of children's interests, ensure they behave brilliantly, and provide an exciting environment for children to explore.
- Leadership and management are inspirational. The manager provides excellent support and guidance to her staff to help them strengthen their already strong teaching skills.
- Observation and assessment of children's learning are extensive. Staff constantly gather information from children's play to identify challenging and interesting opportunities for them to develop. All children make excellent progress, many of them achieving above the typical stage for their age.
- Self-evaluation is highly effective. The manager and staff are committed to improving and regularly discuss ways to develop the provision and children's learning opportunities. For example, the manager has introduced yoga and drama classes.
- The manager and staff are highly productive and go to great lengths to find the resources and develop the knowledge to benefit children. For example, a sensory bus visits the setting and provides further opportunities for children to explore and extend their excellent levels of well-being and personal development.
- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. Staff continuously include parents in their children's learning and encourage them to share knowledge about their children's interests.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen how children are supported during structured group activities so that they continue to receive exceptional support at these times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children and activities in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled written documentation, including children's development records and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views on the setting, staff, and their children's progress.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They demonstrate high levels of confidence when explaining procedures and what to do if they have concerns about a child's safety. The manager ensures she is fully up to date with recruitment legislation and ensuring staff are suitable. For example, she attends training regularly. The manager is highly committed to monitoring staff practice and children's progress. She meets with staff regularly to discuss how the provision, quality of teaching and learning opportunities are maintained to high levels. The manager actively promotes staff's continuous development. For example, staff complete questionnaires, which the manager uses to identify additional training to strengthen staff's already excellent teaching skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an extremely secure knowledge and understanding of the early years curriculum. They inspire children to learn. For example, staff ask children how they can think of different ways to make scales balance. Children worked together to experiment, estimate the weight of objects, and confidently used number language during play. Staff have high expectations of children and provide challenging and thought-provoking opportunities for them to develop. For example, children explored their feelings to help use art skills to create their face to display in the setting. Staff provided different resources and asked skilful questions to constantly encourage children to extend their language skills and to develop ideas. Children really enjoy messy activities and using modelling materials to measure out ingredients and to feel the differences in the mixture.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are warm and nurturing. Children know that they are important and that staff value them highly. For example, staff take time to talk to children individually and listen to what is important to them. All children, including new children, have an impressive understanding of routines and what staff expect from them. At times, staff do not always organise structured large group activities to extend the exceptional support they provide to children. Children understand, however, that they take turns and listen to their friends. They show great care and consideration for their friends and behave exceptionally well. Children thoroughly enjoy exploring the outdoor area where staff provide opportunities for them to learn about nature and develop large physical skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make exceptional progress and are extremely well prepared for their move to school. They continue to develop excellent communication and mathematical skills and confidently recognise and write their name, which encourages early reading skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113448
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	825030
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	27
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Tracey Brooks
Date of previous inspection	4 May 2011
Telephone number	07722501416

Cootham Pre-School registered in 1999 and is situated in the village hall in Cootham, near Storrington, West Sussex. The setting is open on Monday and Wednesday from 9.15am to 3.30pm, on Tuesday from 9.15am until 1.15pm, on Thursday from 9.15am until 3pm and on Friday from 9.15am until 3.45pm during term time. There are eight members of staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification. The setting receives free early years education for children aged three and four years.

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