

Grovelands Acorns Pre-School

Grovelands School, Dunbar Drive, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3UW



Inspection date

29 February 2016

Previous inspection date

11 March 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

- Children are confident and enjoy their time at the pre-school. They have good relationships with the staff, which helps to support their emotional well-being.
- Staff track children's achievements from the start to monitor their progress and plan suitable challenges for their ongoing learning. Children make good progress and are ready for the next stage in their learning.
- Children make good use of the outdoor environment where they discover they can be as active and lively as they like. For example, they develop good physical skills when riding their bicycles and learn how to reverse them safely.
- The staff and management have a strong commitment to improve their provision. For example, they promptly addressed the points raised at their last inspection and took advice as needed. Ongoing reflection helps to identify areas for further improvements. This helps to raise outcomes for children.
- Children behave well. Staff praise children for being kind and considerate.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully developed ways to help children learn about the passage of time to understand when changes in daily routines occur.
- Staff do not always consider how to organise the environment to keep children playing inside warm enough when the door to outside is open.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's understanding about the passage of time and their awareness of changes in the daily routines
- revise the organisation of the environment to enable children playing indoors to remain warm.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing throughout the morning, inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including policies, evaluation and progress monitoring.

Inspector

Jill Steer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff complete safeguarding training and know the procedures to follow to keep children safe. They work well together and attend regular training to extend their knowledge and skills. There are effective systems to ensure that all new staff and committee members are checked and suitable for their roles. Parents take an active role in the pre-school and take on roles in the committee. They contribute their views and ideas to help identify areas for improvement. The managers monitor staff performance and meet with them regularly to provide training, support and coaching to maintain the good quality of provision. There are effective systems to monitor children's progress, which helps staff to identify gaps in individual or groups of children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff meet with parents to find out what children know and can do when they start. They observe and assess children's progress and quickly adapt planning to children's interests to extend their learning. Staff use questioning skills effectively and encourage children to think and solve problems for themselves. For example, staff ask children how they might fit a piece of paper into a smaller envelope or how much more compost they need to fill a pot. Children enjoy using technology and competently negotiate programs on different styles of computers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's safety well. For example, they complete daily risk assessments and teach children how to keep themselves and others safe. There are good relationships between staff, children and their parents. Staff work closely with each other and support children when their regular key person is absent. This helps to provide consistent care. Children have free movement around the pre-school and readily select what they want from the array of resources. Staff use mealtimes as an opportunity to talk about healthy eating and nutrition as well as for continued learning. For example, children look for shapes in their food and containers, mostly identifying circles.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident, independent and develop a good range of skills to support their future learning. They are inquisitive learners who enjoy trying new experiences and activities. For example, children prepare pots for planting seeds and design a climbing structure with crates. Children are confident talkers, ready to express their ideas and join in conversations. They snuggle up to read in cosy dens and share large books at story time, acting out the tales about animals. Children show good levels of concentration. They make good progress and leave the pre-school ready for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109432
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1008624
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Grovelands Acorns Pre-School Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2015
Telephone number	01323 449194

Grovelands Acorns Pre-School registered in 1997 and is run by a committee of parents. It operates from two rooms in Grovelands Primary School, Hailsham, East Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 12 noon and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm during school terms. Full day sessions are available from 9am to 3.30pm. There is also an optional lunch club from 12 noon to 12.30pm. There are nine members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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