

Christchurch Pre-School

The Vicarage, 48 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR



Inspection date	14 March 2016
Previous inspection date	21 January 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

- Staff know the children exceptionally well and they plan an excellent range of enjoyable and stimulating activities. Children are extremely motivated and engaged in their learning.
- All staff, including those new in post, deliver consistently high quality teaching and learning experiences for children. The manager is extremely focused and encourages staff to update their qualifications and undertake training to improve their already outstanding knowledge and skills.
- The manager and staff have an in-depth knowledge and awareness of safeguarding and the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children in their care.
- There is an excellent outdoor environment that provides children with a wealth of opportunities to investigate, explore and exercise in the fresh air.
- Staff effectively use accurate observations and assessments of children's progress to plan challenging activities, based on children's interests and stage of development. All children make significant progress in their learning.
- Staff collect a wealth of information from parents at settling-in visits to make sure they are fully aware of children's care routines, likes, dislikes and stage of development. Children settle quickly and feel emotionally secure.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider even more ways to extend children's interest in nature and the environment they live in.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed play, activities and routines in the main room and outdoor areas.
- The inspector spoke to parents and read letters of reference to take account of their views on the service they receive.
- The inspector talked to the manager about the pre-school and how she is driving forward improvement.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's developmental records, recruitment and induction, and safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The dedicated manager constantly reflects on the high quality service the pre-school provides to improve outcomes for children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of how to safeguard and protect children. They complete thorough risk assessments and constantly supervise children to ensure they are safe and secure at all times. The manager meticulously monitors staff assessments of children's development to ensure that any gaps in children's learning are quickly addressed. Staff have excellent relationships with parents, who are fully involved in their children's learning. Staff seek advice from external agencies and work closely with specialists to support all children. The manager has forged close links with schools to help ensure that children receive an exceptional continuity of care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The support for children's learning is exemplary. Staff are highly skilled. For example, they engage children in conversations to extend their language development. They use careful questioning which challenges children's thinking. For instance, suggesting children use a camera to take photographs of daffodils rather than pick them. Excellent exploratory play helps children to develop interest and curiosity. For example, they excitedly explore with a magnifying glass in search of bugs. However, minor opportunities to extend children's interest in literacy are sometimes missed. Small group stories mean children benefit from excellent attention from staff. This is highly effective in extending children's language skills and helps them to concentrate and listen for short periods.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff utilise every opportunity, particularly outside, to extend children's knowledge of the world around them and help children to gain a real love of learning. Staff expertly use the skills they acquire from the pre-school's visits to a local forest school, to actively engage children in the world around them. Children learn to take managed risks within activities, which helps to build their awareness of staying safe; for example, how to use sticks safely when digging. Children thoroughly enjoy their morning at pre-school and have formed very close relationships with all staff. Children develop excellent levels of self-confidence, as staff know them well and provide for their needs. Staff offer children very nutritious snacks and teach them extremely well about how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who have special educational needs, make exceptional progress in relation to their starting points. Children are remarkably confident, enthusiastic learners who have the skills needed for the next stage in their development and move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127105
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825399
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Christchurch Pre-School Church Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2011
Telephone number	07910157840

Christchurch Pre-School registered in 1975 and is situated in Gravesend, Kent. The pre-school is run by a committee and is open each weekday from 9.15am to 12.15pm, for 38 weeks of the year. The pre-school receives government funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The pre-school employs nine staff, including the manager. One member of staff holds Qualified Teacher Status, and six staff hold appropriate early years qualifications to level 2 or above.

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