

Herstmonceux Preschool

Village Hall, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4JX



Inspection date

25 April 2016

Previous inspection date

22 March 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

- Managers ensure that the extensive, accurate and highly reflective evaluation of provision includes the views and thoughts of parents and children. They ensure that the evaluation has an extremely positive impact on children's learning and development.
- There are very accurate and precise assessments of children's progress in their learning and development, both individually and in groups. This enables the managers and staff to ensure that any gaps in children's development are rapidly addressed and closed.
- Staff are extremely committed to ensuring that children's emotional well-being is very secure. Highly effective bonds develop between children and their key-persons, ensuring that children thrive in an extremely caring and nurturing environment.
- Staff have extremely high expectations of children and a comprehensive knowledge of how children develop and learn. This ensures that all children achieve or exceed their targets and typical levels of development.
- Extremely effective support from the managers and training for staff ensure that the inspiring and stimulating teaching is continually being updated and improved. This means that children receive exceptionally effective and current teaching practices.
- Children are inspired to follow their interests, ensuring they remain motivated to explore and learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the already excellent support for parents to ensure ongoing effective involvement in their children's learning at home, across all areas of learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises and observed the impact of teaching on children's enjoyment and development.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain an understanding of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation.
- The inspector spoke with managers and staff about their practice and the impact on children's learning and development.

Inspector

Claire Watson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a comprehensive knowledge of child protection matters. They are very aware of the procedures to follow if they had any concerns about children's welfare. Staff implement the pre-school's policies and procedures vigilantly and children's safety and well-being are of the utmost importance. Reflective practice by all ensures that a well-planned curriculum meets the needs of all children. The very effective partnerships with other early years professionals support the excellent outcomes for children. Parents have a very significant involvement in their children's learning and development. For example, they have frequent meetings and effective communication with staff so they are extremely well informed. There are plans to extend the highly effective opportunities to support children's learning at home even further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Managers ensure that staff have a thoroughly impressive understanding of how to provide children with highly stimulating and exciting resources and activities. For instance, staff take meticulous care to involve children in the planning process and take particular note of their interests. For example, they asked children what more they wanted to learn about dinosaurs and then skilfully followed up their questions with more resources and discussions. A tailored programme to support, for example, early listening skills, sharing and group participation gives children an excellent solid base from which to flourish. Stimulating physical activities regularly encourage children's development. For example, a carefully thought out programme of learning to use balance bikes gives children exceptional confidence, coordination and balance skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff gather extensive information about the characteristics of each child's care and learning from parents even before children start. This enables staff to meet children's individual needs from day one. Children's highly effective attachments with their key person ensure that they feel safe, and they very quickly want to explore the environment. Children's behaviour is exemplary as, for example, they mirror the highly positive role modelling from all staff. Children have an excellent understanding of how to lead a healthy lifestyle and enjoy exercise. For example, children enjoy squelching through muddy puddles, climbing over fallen branches and helping each other up the hill.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make highly impressive progress from their starting points and are exceptionally well prepared for their move on to school. They are always eager to help each other and play extremely cooperatively with their friends. Children are extremely keen to challenge themselves, such as safely fetching water from a stream and creating dens in the woods.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109460
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	824885
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	18
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Herstmonceux Pre-School Partnership
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2011
Telephone number	01323 832549

Herstmonceux Pre-school registered in 1997. It is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during term time, and at times during holiday periods, depending on demand. There are five staff, all of whom are appropriately qualified to level 3, including two staff with Early Years Professional Status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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