

Stone Cross Pre-School Playgroup



Stone Cross Memorial Hall, Dittons Road, Stone Cross, East Sussex, BN24 5ET

Inspection date

13 June 2016

Previous inspection date

3 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	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

- Staff support children's language development well. For example, they initiate conversations based on children's interests, introduce new words and teach younger children how to use full sentences.
- Staff are positive role models and encourage clear rules and boundaries to manage children's behaviour. Children behave very well. They develop confidence and the social skills that prepare them emotionally for their move to school.
- The manager and staff build effective partnerships with parents. They share good information about children's progress and engage parents to participate in their children's learning.
- The manager and staff have improved their practice and way that they self-evaluate since the previous inspection. They now have a clear vision for the pre-school. They work well with parents and other professionals to review the provision and improve outcomes for children.
- The manager and staff know each child well and observe the children's development closely. They plan effectively to move children on in their next stage in learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always encourage children's interest in early writing, to further develop their literacy skills.
- Occasionally, staff do not give children enough time to respond to their questions, to think and solve problems for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities to encourage children's early writing skills
- increase the opportunities for children to think and respond to questions, to solve problems for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact these had on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector examined a sample of documentation, including records of staff suitability checks and children's records.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Since the previous inspection, the manager and staff team have worked hard to make significant improvements. They now monitor individual and groups of children's development closely and are quick to identify and act on any gaps in learning. This has had a positive impact on the quality of the provision and outcomes for children. The manager observes the performance of staff and identifies relevant training to strengthen their teaching practice. Staff share the knowledge that they gain from courses; for example, they have introduced new ideas to encourage children's mathematical development through play. Safeguarding is effective. All staff attend safeguarding training and have a good understanding of how to deal with any concerns about child protection.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly observe children's learning and plan challenging experiences relating to their individual abilities and interests. Children show good motivation in their learning and engage well in activities. For example, children enjoy choosing from a wide range of creative resources and pay attention to detail as they create colourful pictures. Staff skilfully and consistently support children's mathematical development in various ways. For instance, they encourage children to count during songs and stories. Staff encourage children to explore and describe different objects. For instance, children enjoy feeling shells and feathers and talking about their different textures.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are kind and respectful to others. They make good friendships and play well together, such as when taking turns to carefully add bricks to towers. Staff are caring and positive and children feel happy, safe and secure in their care. Children develop a strong sense of independence. They confidently pour their own drinks and wipe their own noses. Staff plan enjoyable activities to encourage children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle and of how to manage risks safely. For example, children carefully use knives to cut and prepare vegetables for their own salad bowls. Staff talk to children about the different vegetables that they use and discuss the benefits of the healthy food.

Outcomes for children are good

All children enjoy learning and engage well in their chosen activities. They enjoy talking to each other and happily share their thoughts and interests. Children confidently take on roles in their play and show good imagination, for example, as they discuss what ingredients they need as they cook pretend meals. Children enjoy listening to stories and talk about what might happen next. Children are well supported to develop good physical skills, such as when confidently using climbing equipment. They have very impressive mathematical skills and quickly gain the skills needed for their next stages in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507910
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1027969
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Stone Cross Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905907
Date of previous inspection	3 October 2012
Telephone number	01323 769 053

Stone Cross Pre-School registered in 1952. It operates in Stone Cross, East Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday between 9.15am and 12.15pm, during term time only. The setting employs five staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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