

Spire Pre-School

Belmont Centre, Belmont Road, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1BP



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| Inspection date | 20 October 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 22 January 2013 |

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

- The pre-school is effectively led by a knowledgeable management team. Staff are passionate about and committed to providing good standards of care and learning.
- Staff plan interesting, enjoyable experiences based on children's individual assessments and current interests. Children join in enthusiastically and are eager to explore. They make good progress in their development.
- Staff are good role models. They reinforce positive behaviour through praise and encouragement. Children gain a clear understanding of how to manage their behaviour.
- The pre-school works effectively with other settings children attend to provide consistency in children's care, learning and development.
- Management seeks the views of children, parents and staff to help bring about ongoing improvement.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Information is shared well, both verbally and through the use of a software program. This give parents the opportunity to be fully involved in their children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide opportunities for children to explore and practise their early writing skills using a range of different media and materials.
- Staff do not consider the organisation of some activities to enable all children to be fully involved.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to explore their early writing skills using a range of different media and materials
- review the organisation of some activities to make sure that all children participate fully.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents including children's development records, records of staff suitability and qualifications, and safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and looked at parents' written questionnaires.

Inspector

Janet Thouless

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and their responsibility to safeguard children's welfare. Strong arrangements are in place for the selection and recruitment of suitable staff. For example, management makes sure that staff have the required checks to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The manager effectively monitors staff practice regularly and supports them closely to help identify appropriate learning and professional development opportunities. This helps to ensure that the overall quality of teaching, learning and care is continually improving.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make effective use of observations and assessments to identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities which motivate them to learn. Staff focus sharply on helping children to acquire communication and language development and question what is happening. For example, staff support children in using descriptive words as they explore the smell of different ingredients and their use when baking. Staff use everyday opportunities to extend children's imaginations in storytelling. For example, when staff read stories, they invite children to anticipate what might happen next. Children participate in good opportunities to learn about what happens within their local community. For instance, they visit an animal sanctuary and fire station, and travel on a train.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have close relationships with staff. They develop confidence and a strong sense of emotional security. For example, children approach adults confidently, sharing their creative artwork. Children's behaviour is good. They learn important skills such as taking turns and sharing. Staff carefully organise the environment and provide well-considered activities. Children are keen to participate in activities and make independent choices about their play and learning. Children are developing their knowledge of a healthy lifestyle. For example, they follow good hygiene routines and choose from a wide range of healthy choices during snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. They gain good mathematical skills, for instance they compare weight and volume when baking. Children enjoy being physically active. They learn how to balance using stepping stones, climb structures, manoeuvre bikes and kick footballs. Children learn about the natural world, and how things grow and decay over time. Children make good progress from their starting points and develop the skills they need for future learning and moving on to school.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY401755 |
| Local authority | East Sussex |
| Inspection number | 1062329 |
| 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 | 30 |
| Number of children on roll | 30 |
| Name of registered person | Spire Pre-School Committee |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP529354 |
| Date of previous inspection | 22 January 2013 |
| Telephone number | 01825762268 |

Spire Pre-School registered in 2009. It operates from the Belmont Centre in Uckfield, East Sussex. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 8.15am until 3.45pm during school term times. The pre-school supports children who have special educational needs or disability. It receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs 11 staff and nine have appropriate early years qualifications.

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