

Lunsford Park Pre-School

The George Holding Centre, Chaucer Way, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6SS



Inspection date	5 December 2016
Previous inspection date	12 November 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

- Staff know the children well and have a good knowledge of their interests and next steps in learning.
- Staff use individual planning effectively to extend children's skills, devising meaningful activities which challenge and engage children. Children make good progress in their learning.
- The management committee understands its responsibility to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage. Staff have received child protection training and are fully aware of the procedures to follow to help protect children and keep them safe.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff work very well together as part of a team. They are good role models for children and provide them with clear rules and boundaries to meet their emotional needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not share sufficient information with parents to engage them in their children's learning and development.
- Staff do not make effective use of all learning experiences to extend children's understanding of mathematical concepts; for example, comparing size and counting.

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 relationships with parents to share information on children's learning and development
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their interest in mathematics.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to the management about the service it provides and its action plans to develop the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to members of the committee, children and staff at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, safeguarding procedures, planning and policies.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching inside and outside.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are deployed well and use their initiative to move around to make sure that children are safe at all times. Staff carry out thorough risk assessments and effectively teach children how to identify and manage risks for themselves; for example, when using scissors. The manager monitors the progress of all children effectively. Additional funding is used well to help address any gaps in learning. Staff evaluate the quality of provision regularly to ensure they provide a welcoming environment where parents and children feel valued. Management supports staff practices, gives guidance and encourages staff to undertake training to improve their qualification level. This helps to ensure that the quality of teaching continues to be good. Staff work closely with parents and other early years professionals to support children's needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff rotate resources regularly to provide new experiences which help arouse children's curiosity. For example, children use magnifying glasses to investigate bugs hidden in the activity tray and match them to the pictures on the card. There are good opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills, for instance, as they use clipboards and pens to make lists in the construction area. Staff are skilled in developing children's communication and language. For example, they use commentary and skilful questions to encourage children to speak. Children enjoy visits from people in the community, such as nurses and staff from the local supermarket, who talk to them about how to be healthy.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have positive relationships with staff. Children manage their personal hygiene routines and develop their independence; for example, putting on and fastening their coats. They develop good social and emotional skills. For instance, staff make effective use of sand timers to encourage children to share and take turns with the bikes. Children are encouraged to talk about their emotions and how they feel if they do not have a turn. Staff use snack time to chat to children about healthy options and the benefits of eating healthy foods. Children thoroughly enjoy daily opportunities to exercise in the recently refurbished garden, whatever the weather, to support their physical development.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for their future and eventual move on to school. They make good progress from their starting points. Children are keen to explore and investigate and are able to make informed choices about their play. They demonstrate good levels of concentration and persevere with tasks. For example, they thread spaghetti through colander holes to practise their hand-eye coordination and develop their physical skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127354
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1061326
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	24
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Lunsford Park Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP518900
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2013
Telephone number	01732 848926

Lunsford Park Pre-School registered in 1986 and is committee run. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 3.30pm, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It also receives funding for the early years pupil premium. The pre-school employs six staff, of whom three hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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