

Alfriston Pre-School

Alfriston War Memorial Hall, The Tye, Alfriston, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 5TL



Inspection date	16 May 2017
Previous inspection date	24 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 demonstrate an immense understanding of each individual child's personality and developmental needs. They apply this knowledge with precision to their plans, to fully support children's development and achieve high outcomes.
- Staff apply extremely successful strategies to involve parents in children's learning. For example, parents eagerly share information about children's achievements at home, which staff use to form a wide overview of the child's progress. When necessary, staff make effective use of partnerships with other professionals to support families.
- Children make excellent progress. They display a breadth of skills that shows they are prepared for their future development, including in literacy and numeracy. For example, they show advanced number skills and a love of books.
- Children's welfare is of utmost importance to staff who strongly promote healthy practices. For example, children have frequent exercise as they enjoy walks, jump in puddles and climb trees. Children develop a strong sense of healthy eating through activities, such as cookery sessions and making fruit kebabs.
- The manager makes rigorous checks of children's progress to ensure high outcomes. She compares groups of children to see how they develop and changes practice to meet their needs. For example, by introducing opportunities for boys to make marks with natural materials, she has seen a great rise in their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with even more opportunities to learn about diversity and understand different ways of life to their own.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and staff planning documentation, and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of children's learning and staff practice, with the manager.

Inspector

Kerry Lynn

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff exude confidence in their knowledge of the signs that children's welfare may be at risk and have a strong understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern. The manager demonstrates immense commitment to improvement, for example, through in-depth evaluations of practice and discussions with staff to continually improve. She has implemented changes to benefit children massively. An example of this is the environment she has created for children to lead their play and enjoy high-quality resources with extremely skilled staff. The manager uses high-quality performance management and support to help staff develop skills and qualifications to improve teaching practices.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff consistently show exemplary teaching skills. For example, they intervene in children's play with excellent timing to extend their learning. Staff use well-considered questions to extend children's ideas. For example, when children are working out what to make, staff cleverly model and question children to build on their designing skills. They challenge children to work out how to create aspects, such as spikes. Overall, children have extremely good opportunities to learn about differences that exist between people. For example, they have enjoyed visits from shepherdesses and firefighters. However, they do not have as many experiences to help them realise differences that exist between nationalities, such as through experiencing a range of languages.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave impeccably in the setting. Staff strongly promote positive behaviour. For example, they consistently praise children's acts of kindness. Children show great social skills, such as happily sharing experiences with friends. For example, children welcome others to join them in cardboard boxes which have become pretend houses in their active imaginations. Children show high levels of independence. For instance, when the bell rings for snack time they instantly follow the routine by washing hands and taking chairs to tables without prompting. Staff skilfully support children as they prepare to change settings. For example, they ensure visits to local schools are positive and happy times.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children show high levels of motivation. They concentrate intently as they select resources and test out ideas. For example, when children test out wet chalk, they discover it changes to a lighter colour when it dries and share their findings eagerly. They continue to extend their experiments to work out how to melt and then crush the chalk. They problem solve as they work out what tools work best. Children show curiosity and apply critical-thinking skills to their experiments. They focus with intent and have fun.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507907
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1091141
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Alfriston Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519738
Date of previous inspection	24 June 2015
Telephone number	07812 335981

Alfriston Pre-School registered in 1971. It operates from the War Memorial Hall in Alfriston, East Sussex. The pre-school group opens on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm, and on Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs six staff, five of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. Three members of staff have qualifications at level 3, one member of staff has qualified teacher status and one has a qualification at level 2.

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