

Treasure Chest Pre School

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent,
ME9 7ES



Inspection date

25 May 2017

Previous inspection date

16 March 2015

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

- Teamwork is effective. Management and staff work effectively together and they know how to make learning enjoyable for all the children. Children are motivated to learn and they make good progress in their development.
- Staff are competent teachers. They know when to encourage children and when to leave them to explore their own ideas.
- Children receive ample praise from staff. They respond positively to this, thinking about what they do and how to extend it.
- Relationships between the children, parents and staff are strong. Children receive good levels of attention and support. Overall, they behave well and form good friendships with each other.
- Children benefit from outdoor play all year round and enjoy the exercise and fresh air. They use the space well and enjoy exploring the natural world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The staff have not yet fully explored how to involve parents more meaningfully in their children's progress.
- On occasions, staff do not make full use of activities to help build on children's understanding of numbers, size and quantity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the ways in which parents can be more involved in sharing their children's achievements at home
- provide more opportunities for children to extend their mathematical knowledge and understanding.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views on the setting.
- The inspector participated in a joint observation of an activity with a manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including staff records, children's progress information, policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with the children and staff throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers are supportive of staff's professional development and meet with them to help extend their skills and improve outcomes for children. They are confident in their understanding of how to keep children safe in their care. Staff know how to recognise and report any concerns regarding a child's welfare. Managers regularly seek the views of children, parents and staff and use this information to drive improvements that benefit children. Where needed, strong partnerships with other professionals help provide children with consistency in their care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Before children start at the pre-school, staff gather information about what children know and can do. For example, staff undertake home visits. Staff regularly observe and assess children's progress, to help them plan activities for their next steps in learning. Staff are skilled in encouraging children to lead activities. For example, when children create a pretend 'aeroplane' outside and 'fly', staff ask them where they are going and they recall seeing and hearing about different places. Older children communicate their thoughts and ideas well. Children access a variety of real-life tools, such as scissors, cutters and utensils, which they learn to use safely and competently; for example, at snack time and when they are being creative with the play dough. Staff have high expectations of children and encourage them to speak and listen. For example, children negotiate their personal space on the 'aeroplane' together and follow staff's instructions well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are good role models and provide children with good examples about how to behave towards others. Children are sociable and confident and their behaviour towards others is kind and caring. Staff support them well and clearly value their contributions. Staff encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. They provide nutritious snacks, and water and milk to drink. Children also follow good hygiene routines and understand when to wash their hands.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. Children have plenty of opportunities to develop physical skills, such as pencil control, to practise writing their name. They are confident speakers and listeners. They learn the importance of being independent, doing and thinking things through for themselves. Children learn a good range of skills to help them prepare for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY378021
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1093520
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Heather Salisbury and Vivienne Newbury Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP528218
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2015
Telephone number	07527 023 524

Treasure Chest Pre School registered in 2008. It is located in the village hall in Lower Halstow, near Sittingbourne, Kent. The pre-school is open Monday to Thursday from 9am until midday and on Tuesday from midday until 3pm, during school term only. There are three staff working with the children. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 3 and one holds an early years qualification at level 2. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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