

Shepherdswell Preschool

Shepherdswell Village Hall, Coxhill, Shepherdswell, Dover, Kent, CT15 7NN



Inspection date

15 June 2017

Previous inspection date

31 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

- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff use various ways to engage and involve parents effectively in the nursery and children's learning. Parents value the good-quality, consistent care their children receive.
- The manager monitors the progress of individual children and different groups of children effectively, to close any emerging gaps in their learning. For example, an increased focus on supporting children's understanding of the world has been successful. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and considering the similarities and differences between themselves and their friends.
- Staff teach mathematics well, for example, they effectively challenge children to recognise numbers, compare sizes and count objects within their play experiences.
- All children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are taught to wash their hands at appropriate times as part of the support offered to promote their good health. However, staff do not monitor well enough to make sure that this practice is consistently embedded naturally into routines.
- At times, staff do not make the best use of small-group activities, to encourage younger children to remain more engaged and to maximise the learning opportunities for all children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's understanding of how to keep themselves healthy during their daily routines
- consider the arrangements for focused group activities so that all children can consistently enjoy and benefit fully from the overall learning opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities, completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions about children's progress and learning.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and their qualifications, and looked at a sample of relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.
- The inspector observed staff planning and the children's assessment records.

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager accurately evaluates the provision. She includes the views of parents and children to help identify areas for further improvement. For example, focused activities and resources have been enhanced to help extend older children's listening and attention skills. The manager continually improves the quality of staff practice. Staff attend regular training and implement new knowledge and ideas to enhance children's learning and development. For example, improvements have been made to the support for boys to practise early writing. Safeguarding is effective. All staff keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date and are fully aware of current legislation. They understand their role in child protection and know the reporting process to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff understand what children know and how they can further support their good development. For example, as the children enjoyed a role-play and construction activity, staff challenged them to think and solve problems, including what they could use to strengthen their constructions. Staff gave children clear explanations to enhance their learning. They introduced new tools, such as spirit levels, and children gained a good understanding of how they work. Staff accurately assess children's development and plan effectively for their next steps in learning. They skilfully use a wide range of resources to engage children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled in the pre-school environment, which is organised well overall to enable them to follow their play choices. Staff build on children's confidence and sense of belonging well. For example, they praise children for their achievements. Relationships between children and their key person are strong. Staff are sensitive, stimulating and responsive to children's individual needs. Staff help children to develop their growing independence skills. For instance, children are actively involved in the preparation and clearing away of their snack and learn to use appropriate cutlery safely to enhance their physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children play cooperatively together and confidently communicate their needs, ideas and views. For example, they use their imaginations well and negotiate their roles within their play. Children carefully consider the tools and resources they need for each role and make good connections to real-life experiences. Children develop the skills needed for their future learning and move to school. For example, they are encouraged to give meanings to the marks they make as well as identifying and writing their own names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127535
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1089359
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	28
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Shepherdswell Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP906817
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2015
Telephone number	01304 830045

Shepherdswell Preschool opened in 1972. It is located in Shepherdswell, near Dover. The pre-school operates from 8.30am to 3pm term time only. There are 10 members of staff, eight of whom hold early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6 and one holds early years teacher status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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