

# Hedgehogs Pre-School

Hempstead Village Hall, 169 Hempstead Road, Gillingham, ME7 3QG



## Inspection date

25 September 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- The provider is extremely enthusiastic and continuously strives for further improvements. She uses rigorous evaluation and reflection, constantly gathering the views of parents, children and staff, to identify and target areas for improvement.
- The staff provide exciting and challenging activities based on children's development needs and interests. Children thoroughly enjoy learning and make excellent progress from their starting points.
- The quality of teaching is consistently extremely strong. For example, the well-qualified staff use highly effective skilful questioning to extend children's learning and encourage their problem-solving and thinking skills.
- Children are exceptionally happy and settle very quickly. They benefit from an excellent variety of hands-on and real-life experiences. They develop extremely positive attitudes towards learning, showing high levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- The provider and staff have very high expectations for children. The learning assessment process is excellent and staff provide extensive support to each child, working extremely closely with parents and others, to swiftly identify and close any gaps in children's development.
- The outdoor space is exceptionally well resourced and organised, and has been carefully planned to cover all areas of learning. Children are inspired to extend their learning when playing outdoors.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to review and develop snack time to build even further on children's excellent independence.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector tracked the progress of children using observations and assessments.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff, parents and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records and the provider's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the provider.

### Inspector

Mary Vandepeer

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The staff have an excellent and up-to-date knowledge of how to keep children safe and where to report concerns about their welfare and well-being. Staff are meticulous in risk assessing the environment to keep children safe. The provider builds exceptional partnerships with parents, professionals and other settings that children attend to support all children in their development. She supports staff extremely well to improve their skills and knowledge. For example, she observes staff, provides feedback and role models outstanding practice. The provider is acutely aware of the benefits of professional development and continually enables staff to access training. The support for parents is highly effective. For example, staff guide them to other sources of help when appropriate.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know all children exceptionally well. They use precise observations and accurate assessments to swiftly identify each child's next steps in learning. There is an outstanding range of resources, indoors and outdoors, that encourages children to choose where to play and explore. For example, the 'Discovery Area' uses real-life items, such as brass jugs and figurines, to arouse children's curiosity and inspire them to explore and discover what is hidden in different boxes. Children relish the opportunity to mould and feel play dough. Staff provide scented play dough and ask children to guess the aroma, such as lemon. This stimulates children's interest and conversation. The provider has highly interesting plans to extend the already excellent range of resources and experiences even further. For example, cookery workshops where parents can come in and cook with their children.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children show they feel exceptionally safe and secure at the pre-school. The highly effective key-person system and nurturing staff support children in their emotional development. Staff skilfully teach children about healthy eating, such as through discussions and stories. The provider recognises the need to extend opportunities at snack time to build on children's independence. Outdoors, a supply of wooden planks and blocks motivates children to create a challenging obstacle and balancing course. This helps them learn about their physical capabilities and develop new skills.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children behave exceptionally well. They develop highly confident and positive social skills and show high levels of caring and respect for others. They constantly build on their excellent speaking and listening skills. Every child is excellently prepared for the next stage in their education.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY501735
<b>Local authority</b>	Medway Towns
<b>Inspection number</b>	1060678
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	33
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	43
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Laura Hollands
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP911041
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	01634 376146

Hedgehogs Pre-School registered in 2016. It is located in Gillingham, Kent. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm, term time only. The pre-school is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are seven members of staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications, including the provider/manager who has qualified teacher status.

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