Jiminy Crickets Pre-School

Ashford Hill Cricket Club, Chapel Lane, Ashford Hill, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 8BE

Inspection date	11 October 2017
Previous inspection date	2 October 2014

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

- The management team, staff and committee work well together and have recently re-formed following some absences. Self-evaluation methods are in place and management is fully aware of areas requiring future improvement.
- Staff know their key children well. They observe, track and check the children's learning and development to ensure children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children are settled and happy at the pre-school. Staff plan and provide a variety of activities to help support children's interests and aid their ongoing learning.
- Staff effectively support children's personal, social and emotional development. For example, they praise and reward children for their good manners and kindness to each other.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff keep parents well informed about their children's day, and they talk and meet regularly with parents to share children's achievements.
- Recruitment and induction procedures are robust. All staff undertake the required checks to ascertain their suitability to work with children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support children's thinking skills to help them to solve problems or fully express their own ideas.
- Staff's performance management is not sharply focused on developing and raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create more opportunities to challenge children's thinking, to help them find solutions to problems and express their ideas
- assess the impact of training and improvements made, to build on and help achieve the highest quality teaching practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's involvement in activities in the pre-school and outside.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's records and discussed these with staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector looked at and discussed documentation in relation to safeguarding, risk assessments and daily attendance registers.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector
Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a confident awareness of the procedures to follow in the event of a safeguarding concern. They are secure in their knowledge of child protection issues and confidently understand their role and responsibility for referral. Staff benefit from regular appraisals and team meetings which help to keep them up to date about the pre-school policies and procedures. The management team has recently introduced new systems to monitor and assess staff's practice and, as part of this reflection, has started to offer more training. For example, staff have undertaken training on 'children's voices', which has helped them to capture children's opinions through observations. Staff have used this training to pinpoint children's interests to link with next steps in learning. Staff have positive relationships with other professionals involved in children's care, which promotes continuity in children's development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The management team reviews children's learning and development regularly, to ensure all children are making good progress from their starting points. Management and staff work together well to identify children's learning needs, plan for their next steps and support children's ongoing progress. Children are happy and confident in the pre-school. They play and explore with a good range of toys and resources that supports their interests well, inside and outside. Staff support children's imagination very well. For instance, staff provide children with china tea sets and encourage them to make cups of tea. Staff are good at supporting children and promoting their sensory play. For example, staff offer children warm water and a wide range of tea bags to allow them to explore, smell and observe the effects as they mix them in china cups.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming environment for children, who show that they feel safe and secure. For instance, they show confidence as they explore inside and outside of the pre-school and select toys independently with self-assurance. Staff support children's understanding about healthy lifestyles. For example, all children learn the importance of handwashing before cooking and at mealtimes. Staff provide daily opportunities for all children to play outside. Children have good opportunities to be physically active, such as when digging in mud, kicking balls and climbing on large apparatus.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and develop valuable skills for their next stage in their learning. Children demonstrate good listening skills and concentrate well. For example, they respond eagerly when staff read stories in a way that engages them. Children are developing good mathematical skills. For example, they are beginning to count and compare sizes confidently as they explore and play with toy bears.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507959
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1070416
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Jiminy Cricket's Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903136
Date of previous inspection	2 October 2014
Telephone number	01189 810333

Jiminy Crickets Pre-School registered in 1990. It operates from Ashford Hill Cricket Club, Thatcham in Berkshire. The pre-school is run by a parent committee. The pre-school is open from 9am until 3pm every weekday during term time, with the exception of Friday when children attend from 9am until 1pm. Children attend for full days or a variety of sessions. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff, five of whom hold recognised early years qualifications, including one staff member who has qualified teacher status.

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