

Mr Noah's Nursery School

Congregational Church, Iden Green, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4HA



Inspection date	27 October 2017
Previous inspection date	27 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children flourish in an extremely loving and caring environment. They form excellent relationships with staff who consistently model kindness and respect as they work together.
- Parents highly value the excellent care and support children receive. They know how well their children are doing and how they can support them in making progress at home.
- The director is highly knowledgeable about ways children learn and develop. Alongside feedback from staff, parents and children, he has an accurate understanding of the quality of the nursery. Improvements are measurable and sustainable.
- Staff make good use of accurate assessments of children's progress to plan for children's next steps in learning. They create a well-planned, stimulating and engaging environment based on what they know children can do and their interests.
- Children make good progress from their individual starting points. They successfully build on their skills so that they are well prepared for their future learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to further extend children's learning while they are playing and exploring the environment.
- Although the director has a very good understanding of the progress of individual children, a system for tracking the progress of all groups of children in the nursery is not fully embedded.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop teaching techniques further, to extend children's learning as they play and explore the nursery environment
- extend the monitoring of the progress made by groups of children, so that the director clearly knows how well all groups of children are progressing.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's play indoors and outdoors, including at the nursery woodland.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery director.
- The inspector spoke with children, all staff and parents, and took account of their views.
- The inspector conducted a shared observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including children's records of progress, self-evaluation and development plans, complaints, recruitment records and parent questionnaires.

Inspector

Alison Martin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff know how to keep children safe and are confident in knowing what actions to take if a child's welfare is at risk. Regular meetings and innovative training help ensure staff reflect on their teaching and develop their professional knowledge. For instance, they have recently attended training on supporting children's creativity and self-regulation. Staff have good links with other professionals. This helps all children, including those who have special educational needs or those learning English as an additional language, receive timely support to reduce any gaps in their learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children learn in a calm and nurturing environment with staff who know them well. They have rich and varied resources to support their play and interests, such as when they use different fabrics to make blankets for the doll's house beds. Staff positively encourage them to try things out and 'have a go'. For example, children are thrilled to see what happens when they dip a paintbrush into the water tray. Wonderful storytelling, using props and music, helps capture children's imaginations and develop their own language and communication skills. Staff support children's mathematical skills well using naturally occurring opportunities. For example, children learn about adding numbers together as they first count the boys, then the girls and then the total amount of children in a group.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children demonstrate significantly high levels of self-control, well-being and good behaviour. They learn to be kind to each other and to care about other living things, such as the nursery animals. Children have an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe. They display extraordinary levels of self-confidence to manage risks and challenges, such as when they swing on the rope swing. Children learn about being healthy and they eat vegetables they have grown themselves. The staff provide many opportunities for them to visit the local area, such as the courts to play tennis, and the woods. Children excitedly explore the woodland where they make dens, climb trees and discover the delights of raking autumn leaves from a stream. Although the nursery follows a Christian ethos, children learn about others' faiths and cultures. They play and listen to stories, and they learn to respect others' similarities and differences.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy and inquisitive, and have a genuine love of learning. For example, they laugh with joy as they play a memory game. They competently draw and write their names, and tell stories about their lives and experiences. Children sing with gusto and accurately clap out rhythms. They spontaneously count and use numbers in their play. They are becoming independent and capable learners, ready for when they go to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127394
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1089349
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Mr Noah's Nursery School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903991
Date of previous inspection	27 March 2015
Telephone number	01580 240642

Mr Noah's Nursery School registered in 1995. It operates in the Congregational Church premises in the village of Iden Green, near Benenden. The nursery teaches children based upon Froebelian and Christian philosophies. The nursery is open from 9am to 4pm every day. It is closed for two weeks at Christmas and Easter, and for the month of August. The nursery receives funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff, two of whom hold early years qualifications from level 2 to 3. The director holds early years professional status and qualified teacher status.

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