

Happy Valley Pre School

Mencap, Riverside Hall, West Quay, Newhaven, East Sussex, BN9 9BP



Inspection date	14 May 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff make good use of their observations and assessments of children to plan further challenging activities. All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. Staff keep parents well informed about children's individual achievements and encourage them to continue learning at home.
- Staff work effectively with parents and external agencies to meet children's care needs. They listen carefully to all concerned in a child's care and make sure they provide consistency for children.
- Children settle quickly in the caring and friendly environment. They form strong emotional bonds with staff.
- Staff make good use of their training to improve children's experiences, health and well-being. For example, following a recent course, staff have started a healthy eating project and are involving parents in the planned activities.
- The manager carefully monitors staff's use of observation to help ensure they are assessing children accurately and planning effectively. She reviews all children's progress and successfully identifies and addresses emerging gaps in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make the most effective use of the outdoor area as an inviting and stimulating learning environment for children who like to play outdoors.
- Not all staff are prompt and consistent at reinforcing children's understanding of what behaviour is acceptable and how to manage their feelings appropriately.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and enhance the organisation and use of the outdoor environment to make it more inviting and interesting for those children who prefer to play outdoors
- make sure all staff give children consistent messages of what is expected and how to manage their feelings in an appropriate way.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation that included improvement plans.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and staff.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have completed training in safeguarding and fully understand their role and responsibility. They know what to do if they have a child protection concern. The manager has thorough recruitment procedures that help ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. She competently monitors and encourages staff's professional development. For example, she models good practice and coaches less confident staff. The staff effectively evaluate activities and make improvements where needed to help ensure all children are challenged and engaged. Additional funding is used well to support children's needs. For example, the manager provides focused support for individual children to help increase their speech and language skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff organise the indoor area effectively to meet children's needs and interests. For example, they create different play areas that children access freely. Children enjoy active play as well as times when they sit and look at books quietly in a reading den. Staff interact well with children and extend their learning. They make good use of opportunities to build on children's mathematical skills. Staff also build on children's language effectively. For example, they engage older children in conversation and encourage them to share their ideas and experiences. Staff repeat and add to the words younger children use. They encourage children to explore and make sounds, for instance, using a variety of musical instruments.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children develop a good understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles. For example, they provide plenty of opportunities for children to be physically active indoors and outside. Children show good coordination and balance, for example, when using stepping stones. They quickly learn how to move safely and manage risks. Staff reinforce children's awareness of the importance of healthy eating, for example, through planned activities, such as exploring and handling a variety of fruit. Children enjoyed making fruit kebabs to eat. Staff are good role models who are caring and kind. Children readily go to staff for a cuddle when they need reassurance. Staff teach children to respect differences in others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop well in the skills they need to secure future learning. Younger children learn new skills and persevere, for example, when using bucket stilts. Children concentrate well at activities, such as dough play. They share resources and take turns. Older children form friendships and play happily together, for example, at a water tray. Children have good levels of independence and manage their personal care needs well. They speak confidently and show curiosity in the world around them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY551395
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1111374
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	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Sharan Jane Bennett
Registered person unique reference number	RP514721
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07855 426110

Happy Valley Pre School registered in 2017 at the current premises. It operates from Mencap Riverside Hall, Newhaven, East Sussex. Opening times are from 8am to 4pm from Monday to Friday, for 44 weeks of the year. The group is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The group employs five staff. Of these, the manager holds early years professional status, one staff member has a relevant childcare qualification at level 5, two staff have a qualification at level 3 and one has a qualification at level 2.

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