

Harrietsham Pre-School

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, West Street, Harrietsham,
Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1JZ



Inspection date 24 May 2018
Previous inspection date 14 July 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

- The manager provides staff with many opportunities to further their professional development. For example, staff attend further training to build on their good teaching skills and share good practice at regular team meetings.
- Staff provide a stimulating and engaging environment, and support children's learning very well. Children are happy, motivated and excited to play and learn, both inside and outdoors.
- Staff support children's emotional well-being extremely well. Children play together superbly, and develop excellent levels of kindness towards others.
- Children settle amazingly well and form secure relationships with their key person. Staff are excellent role models and help children to develop a full understanding of their expectations in the setting.
- The manager and staff have established good partnerships with parents, other settings and professionals, to help maintain continuity for children in their care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not yet effectively monitor how well specific groups of children are progressing in their development.
- Staff do not always effectively encourage parents to be fully involved in the planning of the next steps in their children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the systems being used, to monitor effectively the progress of different groups of children's development
- strengthen opportunities to encourage parents' involvement in identifying the next steps in their children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's progress.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at suitable times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including evidence of staff suitability, children's progress and the safeguarding policy and procedures.

Inspector

Nicky Chambers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager demonstrates a good level of commitment in her drive for continual improvement. For example, she reflects on her practice and seeks the views of staff, parents and children. The manager has high expectations of all staff. She provides good coaching, guidance and further training opportunities. For example, after recent training, staff have further developed the outdoor area and enhanced children's curiosity about the world around them. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities to keep children safe from harm. They know how and when to report concerns, to promote children's welfare. Risk assessments are carried out daily to help ensure the environment is safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work very well with other professionals to ensure they provide consistent care and learning for children. They observe children regularly and carry out accurate assessments to identify their interests and abilities. Staff skilfully use this information to plan activities and opportunities to build on children's development. Staff ask children questions, allow them time to think and skilfully challenge their learning. For example, when children enjoy looking at the life cycle of a butterfly, staff build on their understanding of the world as they discuss similarities, differences and change.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide children with excellent opportunities throughout the day to explore and learn outdoors. For example, children are highly motivated to learn about growth and the life cycle of a butterfly. They are extremely curious to find out more as they observe a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. Children's behaviour is exceptional. They show increasingly high levels of confidence and independence during daily routines and within their play. For example, children are very self-assured to take the lead in their own play and use brilliant, imaginative skills to develop their own learning. Staff are inspirational at teaching children about leading healthy lifestyles. For example, children have excellent opportunities to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and learn about keeping healthy. At snack time, children talk with staff about food that is good for them, their own dietary requirements and the effects their bodies.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and in relation to their capabilities. Children gain the skills they need for future learning. Children develop their mathematical skills, for instance, as they count and compare sizes, colours and quantities. Children have good early literacy skills. For example, they make marks, recognise their names and enjoy looking at books.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY340143
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1129611
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	29
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Harrietsham Playgroup Association Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP902058
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2015
Telephone number	01622851819

Harrietsham Pre-School registered in 2006 and operates in Harrietsham, Kent. It is located in the grounds of a local school and works closely with the school. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm. There are seven members of staff, six of whom hold early years qualifications. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three- and four-year old children.

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