

Inspection of Coxheath Rising Five Preschool

The Scout Hut, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME17 4DQ

Inspection date: 13 March 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The dedicated manager and staff are passionate about providing a pre-school environment where all children can thrive and grow. They focus on promoting and celebrating children's strengths and supporting their weaknesses. The staff are compassionate and kind. They welcome children in with open arms and gently guide them through the day with a helping hand. Children run happily into the room and excitedly tell staff about their morning. They enjoy interacting with staff and delight in playing games with their friends. Staff are playful, fun and enthusiastic with the children. Children mirror this behaviour and often giggle and smile as they explore the resources.

Staff are very clear and consistent with rules and boundaries. Children show that they understand the rules and why they are in place. This creates a calm but exciting atmosphere where children know what to expect. The staff are a close team who model relationships based on respect and kindness. Many children have formed close friendships with their peers and readily invite others into their play. Children are good at sharing resources and make sure everyone is involved and included.

Staff have high expectations for all children. They work together to plan many exciting activities each day to engage and challenge the children. Staff ensure they encourage and support children to become independent and confident learners. They plan group activities and mimic some of the school routines to support them moving onto school.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The manager and staff plan activities that challenge and support children to learn in all areas of the curriculum. Staff know children well and use regular, effective assessment to target learning at what children need to learn next. For example, staff support children to begin to identify the letters in their names. They help them to make the sound of each letter and put them in the correct order. Other children enjoy matching different sized and coloured bears to make repeating patterns.
- Staff present information clearly and help children to recall previous learning. They are good at checking children's understanding and providing further learning that will support them to continue to build on their knowledge and understanding. For example, staff remind children of their previous work on life cycles. Children then exclaim in awe as they look at baby caterpillars and think about what they will turn in to.
- Staff place an importance on developing children's communication and language. Children are immersed in an environment full of stories, role play and

conversations. Children's language skills are developing well. However, staff do not consistently use effective methods to support children to develop their vocabulary.

- Children are beginning to understand their emotions and the effect their behaviour can have on others. Staff take the time to support children to reflect on how their friends feel and to think about emotions using books and mirrors. Children care about each other and come to staff to tell them when their friends are sad. Children negotiate together what they can play that they will all enjoy.
- Staff work hard to prepare children for school. They plan large group times, such as planting cress seeds and physical games. This supports children with sitting, listening and being part of a group learning experience. Children enjoy these and take part. However, staff do not always consider the size of the group. This can leave some children waiting a long time for their turn while not being actively involved in meaningful learning.
- Children demonstrate they are highly independent. Staff support them to put their own bags away and take their shoes off. Children find their name cards to self-register and enjoy helping staff to tidy up resources and to wash up snack time plates. They quickly become able to wash their own hands and go to the toilet independently.
- The manager is very supportive of her staff. She is good at helping them to identify further training to improve their skills and outcomes for children. Staff feel happy to be at work and are ready and able to provide the best care and education they can to children.
- The manager maintains good relationships with parents. She ensures they know what their children are learning and how they can provide a continuity of care together. The manager makes sure she has time to talk with parents and listen to them, proving advice and support. Parents feel confident that their children are safe, well cared for and making good progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to build more fully on children's developing language skills
- organise group times more effectively to ensure that all children are engaged in meaningful learning and to reduce waiting times for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127121
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10312365
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	3 to 4
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Coxheath Pre-School Group Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908686
Telephone number	07934 103132
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

Coxheath Rising Five Preschool registered in 1983. Children attending also attend Coxheath Preschool. The pre-school is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from January until July, during term time only. Opening hours are from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. There are seven members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nina Harvey

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the pre-school.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the curriculum.
- The inspector spoke with staff, interacted with children and viewed appropriate documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- Parents shared their views about the setting with the inspector.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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