

Sheepsetting Preschool

Cross in Hand C of E Primary School, Sheepsetting Lane, Cross in Hand, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 0XG



Inspection date

13 March 2015

Previous inspection date

20 February 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. All staff are checked as to their suitability and know precisely what action to take should they have concerns about the welfare of a child.
- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the learning and development requirements. They plan a wide range of interesting activities to engage children in play across all areas of learning.
- All staff promote children's well-being very well. Children are very independent in choosing what to play and are well motivated to learn as a result.
- Parents enjoy a very strong partnership with the preschool. They form the management committee. They contribute to the frequent updates of their children's online learning records.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On some occasions, staff do not fully encourage children to work out problems for themselves, which has an impact on the development of their thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's problem-solving skills by consistently involving them in coming up with their own solutions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at play in the setting and outdoors.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation including online records.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Susan McCourt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Each child's key person works very closely with parents to establish children's current abilities as they start at preschool. Staff quickly get to know children's interests and achievements, which helps them to plan very effectively to meet children's individual learning needs. Staff frequently update children's learning journals online with current observations; parents can see the latest progress and add their own comments. This underpins a strong partnership in learning. Children have great fun as they play. For example, staff thoughtfully provide ingredients for children to mix themselves. Children get excited about how each element feels and how it changes as they mix them together. Staff are skilled at engaging children in conversation and encouraging them to share their experiences and ideas. They check children's understanding of new words which builds children's confidence in their growing vocabulary. Children make good progress in their learning as a result.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff have a very effective key person system which helps children to settle and feel secure. Parents value staffs' skills in supporting children to separate confidently. As a result, children are confident to explore and their emotional development is strong. Children enjoy frequent opportunities to play outside and use the climbing frame, mud kitchen and garden area. They benefit from easy access to a wide range of good quality equipment, which they use freely in their play. This promotes their physical development. Staff teach children how to play safely, such as how to use scissors and other tools. Children build strong friendships. They learn how to use timers and polite requests to take turns and share. Children enjoy playing together and have good cooperative skills. This means that they have strong skills to support them in their future learning.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff are all well qualified for their role. They update their knowledge and understanding through regular short courses. This means that they are up to date with good practice and are very consistent in their assessment skills. The manager and chairperson carry out regular appraisals and supervision of staff to oversee their ongoing professional development. They use regular meetings to evaluate their practice and set well-judged targets for improvement, such as developing forest school practice. The manager examines children's progress records to see how different groups of children are learning. This helps her to identify and address any achievement gaps. The manager has strong partnerships with the school and other day care settings. This means that children benefit from very consistent care and a smooth transfer to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY309278
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	834272
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Sheepsetting Preschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 February 2012
Telephone number	01435 862941

Sheepsetting Preschool is a committee-run group that was registered in 2005. It operates from Cross-in-Hand Church of England Primary School on the outskirts of Heathfield. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Monday to Thursday, the preschool is open from 9am to 3pm. Friday sessions are for rising-fives only and run from 9am until 12 noon. The preschool receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are five members of staff who work with the children, all of whom are qualified to at least level 3.

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