

# Smarden Pre-School Group

Smarden CP School, Pluckley Road, Smarden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ND



<b>Inspection date</b>	18 March 2015
Previous inspection date	15 October 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding and there is a strong commitment to keeping children safe.
- Staff foster a passion for books and reading with the children and provide a wealth of books and puppets to support reading and storytelling.
- Staff skilfully play mathematical games with children to develop their understanding and knowledge of mathematics.
- Staff support children to be confident and independent through routines and activities that develop both independence and team work.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- There is a spacious outdoor area for children to play in throughout the day. However, staff have not developed the space to fully mirror the effective indoor environment in order to enhance children's enjoyment.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further develop the outdoor environment so that it mirrors the effective indoor environment.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching both inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at children's observations and assessment records.
- The inspector sampled policies and procedures and saw evidence of the qualifications and suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with the manager throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents on the day of the inspection.

### Inspector

Victoria Cheeseman

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is consistently good and all children make good progress in their learning and development. Staff support children effectively when they first start pre-school, helping them to settle in at their own pace. Staff support older children as they prepare for starting school. Staff attend training so that they are knowledgeable about how to support children with additional needs. Staff encourage children to learn about the natural world and have made bird feeders with the children so that they can watch birds in the garden. Staff follow children's own interests to help develop their learning and understanding. For example, as a result of children's interest in building works taking place at the school, the staff and children formed their own building and construction area. Therefore, children were able to measure and build their own constructions. Staff make good-quality, regular observations on all children, which they share regularly with parents.

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

Staff are good role models for children and all children behave well. Staff are kind and nurturing and clearly enjoy working with children. This enhances children's sense of belonging and confidence. Staff provide healthy snacks and teach children how to care for themselves with hand washing and toileting. Staff work well in partnership with parents, who comment that they appreciate the care that their children receive and that their children love attending pre-school. Staff have created a nurturing space indoors for children to thrive and learn in. Staff have developed the outdoor area so that children can access it throughout the day. The manager and staff have formed good relationships with other professionals, such as the health visitor and local teachers. This enables them to fully support children and their families to share good practice.

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

The manager and deputy work well with the committee to ensure that they implement every aspect of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The manager encourages the whole team to reflect on practice so that they can identify what works well and discuss further areas for development. The introduction of the indoor cosy room is a good example of how the team worked together to create a new nurturing space for children to relax, spend time with friends and staff, and enjoy books. There is a strong commitment to staff training and the impact of training and staff qualifications is evident in staff's knowledge and interactions with children. There is a good understanding of safe recruitment so that suitable staff are employed to work with children. Policies and procedures are thorough and clear, and they underpin the effective operation of the setting.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY333457
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	828220
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	36
<b>Name of provider</b>	Smarden Pre-school Group Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	15 October 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01233 770691

Smarden Pre-school registered in 2006 and is situated adjacent to the Primary School in Smarden, near Ashford, Kent. It is open each weekday, during term time, from 9am to 3pm apart from Thursdays, when it is open from 9am until 12 noon. The pre-school receives funding for early years education and is open to two-year-old children only. There are six members of staff, five of whom hold early years qualifications. The manager has a level three qualification and the deputy has a level five qualification.

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