

Hanslope Pre-School

Village Hall, Newport Road, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7NZ



Inspection date

8 May 2015

Previous inspection date

17 November 2011

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

- Children thrive and learn as they play happily in the spacious environment that staff fill with engaging and stimulating resources.
- Overall, staff form caring relationships with their key children which give them the security they need to seek out new challenges. This means that all children make steady progress in their learning, and older children are well prepared to move on to school.
- Parents are kept well informed of what their children learn and are frequently given ideas to extend their children's learning at home. Staff make sure that parents are kept up to date about their children's progress through frequent meetings and sharing of their regular assessments.
- The pre-school staff have made the well-being of the children their priority and they focus on this specifically. Staff not only monitor what children are learning but also how engaged they are in the activities they provide.
- The staff are led by a management team that strives for continuous improvement and has high aspirations for the future. The manager is well supported by the parent committee that is involved in fund raising and recruitment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The quality of teaching among staff is good overall. However, due to a recent increase in new staff, at times the quality of teaching and interaction with children, although good, is inconsistent among the whole staff team.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide greater opportunities for new staff to learn from the skills of established members of the staff team, so as to minimise the impact of staff changes and to consistently maintain high-quality teaching and learning for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities, inside and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Victoria Frost

Inspection findings

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

Overall, children make steady progress through the support of caring and intuitive staff. Individual children learn through tailored activities and are closely observed by their key person. Parents are able to contribute to their children's learning through termly meetings and regular feedback from their key person. The pre-school has recently recruited new staff and although, overall, the quality of teaching is good it is not yet consistently embedded across the whole staff team. Nonetheless, this does not significantly impact on children's progress. Staff suggest ideas and activities for parents to try to extend their children's learning at home. They also share their development plans with parents through newsletters, meetings and questionnaires. The staff makes good use of the garden to provide a wide range of permanent resources that allow children to explore the world around them and extend their all-round learning.

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

Children are very happy. There is an effective key-person system in place. Staff share in children's play, and lead group activities with them throughout the day. Staff ensure that the organisation of the pre-school allows children to experience a good range of resources, and they are able to make their own choices between playing indoors or outdoors. Overall, staff ensure that expectations for children strike a balance between what they can do and creating a challenge. For example, children pour milk or water, and serve themselves fruit or pitta bread at snack time. Meals are used to encourage healthy diets, and staff promote this with families well. Parents are involved in sharing starting points for children's learning, and staff regularly consult with them to help them understand the progress their children are making.

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

The manager is passionate about the high standard of care she expects from her team. Steps are taken to ensure the safety of all children, and staff implement the pre-school's policies and procedures robustly. Management and staff complete a self-evaluation system and demonstrate a positive commitment to driving improvements. The committee of parents works very closely with the management team. For example, by raising money to develop the outdoor area. These changes have successfully extended children's learning experiences outdoors. Staff are supported to develop their practice and to identify their ongoing training needs. The manager models good practice to staff. She monitors and supports new staff to achieve the high standard of teaching expected. Consequently, the quality of teaching is consistently high among existing staff, and the manager is reviewing how she can currently help new staff to rapidly reach the high aspirations for teaching too.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141808
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	841494
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Hanslope Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 November 2011
Telephone number	01908 511886

Hanslope Pre-School registered in 1996. It operates from the local village hall in Hanslope, situated between Milton Keynes and Northampton, in Buckinghamshire. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, from 9.15am until 12.15pm, term time only, and runs a lunch club between 12.15pm to 1.15pm. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four. There are 10 members of staff working with the children, of whom five hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3.

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