

# Hilltops Preschool

Scout Hut, Allbrook Hill, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4NA



## Inspection date

19 May 2015

Previous inspection date

19 October 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- The strong leadership team effectively oversee the excellent systems for the safe and smooth running of the pre-school with all requirements met well. All those involved have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children.
- Exemplary reflective evaluation and a strong focus on developing staff's skills, brings about continuous improvements for children. This has a very positive impact on staff practice, the quality of interaction and the activities provided to support children's learning. As a result, the gaps that existed between the boys' and girls' levels of development have been reduced over the last two years.
- Staff are committed to providing a fully inclusive service. The high number of well-qualified staff and effective organisation means all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and communication difficulties receive excellent support.
- A well-established key-person system helps children to form secure attachments. This promotes children's emotional well-being very effectively and provides a strong base for their learning. Staff meet children's physical needs highly effectively.
- The highly effective partnerships with parents, external agencies and other early years providers, ensure children's specific and individual needs are met successfully. As a result, children make excellent progress and are extremely well prepared for the next stages in their learning now, and for when they go to school.
- Staff provide an exceptional educational programme of exciting and challenging activities that encourage children's natural curiosity to learn. They go to great lengths to present an extremely stimulating environment, despite having to pack away each day. This encourages children to be highly independent in their play and to take a lead in their own learning.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- work even more closely with parents to further extend children's understanding of healthy eating.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and how they interact with children during play and learning activities, and viewed the play areas and resources.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation relating to children's development, staff suitability, training records, and safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector had discussions with staff, and the owners who manage the pre-school and work with the children. She spoke with children and parents to gain their views of the pre-school.
- The inspector discussed the pre-school's self-evaluation and how the action plan is used to bring about continuous improvement, including how the recommendation made at the last inspection has been met. She discussed how staff work with other early years providers, other professionals and parents.

### Inspector

Jacqueline Munden

## Inspection findings

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

Staff meticulously assess children's levels of development and know how they plan to help each child progress. They involve parents fully in the process. Staff give children's communication and language development very high priority. They plan specific small language group sessions and use every opportunity as children play to build their vocabularies to become confident speakers. Pictures placed on the snack tables prompt discussion and the careful placing of books relating to a type of play, such as large construction equipment, help staff to extend children's interests and knowledge on the subject. For example, staff talked to children who were playing with the model digger and dumper truck, manoeuvring loads of wood and pebbles, about the different equipment used on a building site. Children enjoyed looking at the book, learning to pronounce the names and about how the equipment differed, some move on tracks instead of wheels, for example. Staff encouraged children to count and compare sizes of them, which promoted their mathematical skills. Children are eager to take part, showing they are interested, as they listen intently and remain focused for very long periods.

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

Staff place great importance on teaching children about healthy lifestyles. As part of a recent topic, staff provided an even greater range of physical activities than usual and invited parents to take part. Children began growing vegetables to help them learn about foods that are good for them. However, the information staff provide parents on what foods to include in lunchboxes is not helping them all to extend their child's understanding of healthy eating. Children respond exceptionally well to the consistent reminders of the pre-school's rules, and demonstrate kindness as they share toys and cooperate well with others. Children are very happy and build strong friendships.

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

Management provides opportunities for, and encourage, staff to share the skills they gain from training with each other. This helps to increase staff's professional development and their teaching skills highly effectively. For example, some staff are trained in delivering the highly effective small language group sessions. They regularly demonstrate the methods they use to others to ensure all staff know the most effective ways to promote children's communication and language skills. Detailed reviews bring about improvements for children's learning, such as their literacy skills. For example, staff now provide many mark-making activities, indoors and outside, making it easier and more inviting for children, and in particular the boys, to explore. As a result, many children write their own names.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	109805
<b>Local authority</b>	Hampshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	839633
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	28
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	56
<b>Name of provider</b>	Annamarie Robinson & Alison Bennett Partnership
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	19 October 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	07816 170639

Hilltops Pre-school registered in 2000. It operates from a Scout building in the Allbrook area of Eastleigh. The pre-school opens each weekday during school term times from 9am until 12 noon on Monday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9am until 3pm on Tuesday and Wednesday. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 members of staff, including the two owners who are also the managers. Of these, nine hold a relevant early years qualification.

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