

The Cherries Pre-School Playgroup



The Cherries Pre School, School Lane, Newington, Kent, ME9 7LB

Inspection date 17 June 2015
Previous inspection date 8 July 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		Outstanding	1
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

- Staff provide an excellent range of resources and experiences to excite and interest the children. Therefore, they are motivated to explore and learn.
- Staff observe and assess children skilfully in order to plan further activities to support their learning. The manager tracks children's progress successfully to monitor and address any gaps in learning. Therefore, all children make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff work closely with parents and share their children's progress with them. Parents contribute to their development folders which helps them to support their children's learning at home.
- Children are happy and confident and build positive relationships with staff and each other. This effectively promotes their emotional well-being.
- All staff receive regular supervision and appraisals which ensure they are able to develop their skills and practices further. This maintains the good quality of teaching because staff continually extend their knowledge of how children learn through training.
- Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection issues, and are aware of the procedures to follow if they have concerns regarding children's welfare. Staff attend training to keep their knowledge up-to-date to keep children safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always build on opportunities during activities to consistently extend children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of activities to further identify opportunities to consistently extend children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children playing indoors and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to seek their feedback.
- The inspector looked at the self-evaluation form and a sample of policies, procedures and children's developmental folders.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

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

All staff are knowledgeable about the Early Years Foundation Stage. They encourage children to make their own choices from the vast range of activities and resources. During the inspection, children enjoyed making and following treasure maps which promoted their creative thinking. Staff know when to intervene to support children's learning. For example, they show children how the fruits are ripening outside and talk to them about the fossils and claws of dinosaurs. This promotes their language development successfully. The qualified teacher provides exciting activities to encourage children's interest in sounds and letters. For example, they enjoy writing letter shapes in the shaving foam and pointing to letters on a line of carrier bags. This promotes literacy well and helps children prepare for school. Staff have adapted the environment to accommodate two year olds and have created more corners and a willow dome outdoors which promotes communication.

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

Staff promote children's emotional development extremely well. They are sensitive to children's individual needs and support younger children to settle in effectively. Staff welcome children into the pre-school where they register with their named "cherry". This gives them a sense of belonging. Staff provide children with a selection of healthy foods at snack time. This and the regular access to the outdoors teaches children about a healthy lifestyle. Children are encouraged to be independent by managing their own hygiene and by pouring drinks and washing up. Staff ensure children wear hats which helps to keep children safe whilst playing outdoors in the sun. Staff offer positive praise to the children and involve them in the creation of rules for the setting. This helps children to understand the boundaries and to behave very well.

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

The new manager has effectively implemented all recommendations from the previous inspection, notably the outdoor learning environment. Staff, children, parents and members of the committee all contribute to the evaluation of the setting, and there is an ongoing commitment to reflection and enhancing the pre-school environment further. For example, a visit to another setting has resulted in the creation of a beach room which children enjoy throughout the session. This effectively supports their communication and provides opportunities for exploring and investigating. Staff have excellent relationships with other agencies which help to support individual families and to prepare children successfully for moving on to school. There is a clear recruitment process which ensures that staff are suitable to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY423811
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	823035
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	The Cherries Pre-School Playgroup
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2011
Telephone number	01795 841 131

The Cherries Pre-School Playgroup registered in 1983 and moved to its new premises in 2011. It is situated in the village of Newington, Kent. The pre-school is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.45 pm. It offers flexible sessions as well as a lunch club. There are five pre-school staff who all hold Level 3 qualifications. The pre-school also employs a qualified teacher. The pre-school setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old.

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