

Weald Pre-School

St Georges Church Hall, Church Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6LT



Inspection date

18 June 2015

Previous inspection date

28 September 2010

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

- Staff consistently consider children's interests and next steps in learning when planning activities. This means that children are motivated and enthusiastic learners, and therefore all children make good progress in their learning.
- Managers maintain strong links with other professionals; this helps to ensure that they recognise children's individual needs and support them well.
- Staff are good role models and encourage aspects of good behaviour, such as simple manners and turn taking. This enables children to develop a good understanding of managing their own behaviour.
- Staff provide a vast range of challenging resources which encourage independence and learning.
- Staff develop strong relationships with the children from the start; this helps to ensure that children feel safe and secure in the pre-school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always gain in-depth information about children's developmental starting points. Therefore, staff occasionally miss opportunities to use this information to plan and support learning from the child's first day
- Staff monitor practice well. However they do not fully consider children's views within the evaluation process to enable them to play a bigger part in their own learning and experiences.
- Staff do not consistently use effective questioning during adult planned activities to fully 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:

- gain more in-depth developmental information from parents before children start, in order to inform planning
- increase staff's use of questioning techniques to strengthen children's learning
- review self-evaluation systems to ensure the views of children are fully considered.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed a range of documentation including policies and children's developmental records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the pre-school's Special Educational Needs Coordinators.
- The inspector observed children in both indoor and outdoor play environments.
- The inspector discussed with parents and children their views on the pre-school.

Inspector

Amanda Vidler

Inspection findings

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

Staff have developed stimulating indoor and outdoor environments which enable children to learn and develop across all areas of learning. They support children in trying new things and overcoming challenges. For example, staff oversee and encourage children trying to create models and offer support when required. Staff observe and record children's development and achievements well, using a 'wow' board to highlight these. They identify children's next steps in learning and areas where extra support may be required. This enables them to monitor how children are progressing and to close potential learning gaps. Staff work closely with parents to plan for future learning. They introduce a mix of planned and free-play activities which helps to ensure children are interested and challenged. Staff introduce procedures to ensure all children are able to participate; for example, they use signing and visual timetables daily.

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

Children are very comfortable and settled within the pre-school environment. They actively seek the attention and support from staff when required. Staff listen and respond well and join in children's play. These positive interactions encourage children to become confident learners. Staff show a good understanding of the care needs of individual children, gaining information from parents and offering appropriate support. For example, staff recognise and support children who are tearful when coming into the session by offering cuddles. Children develop a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy. They learn about healthy eating through activities such as planting and growing. Staff support children's move to school well; they arrange visits from teachers and share occasions such as sports day with the local reception class.

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

Managers have a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding children and their role in reporting any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff ensure the environment is safe and children are well cared for. Managers support staff well through regular individual meetings to help to identify staff training needs. For example, following a course regarding literacy, staff now provide relevant books and writing equipment in different areas within the environment. This effectively strengthens children's early reading and writing skills. Managers monitor and develop practice by considering individual staff skills and interests; this enables them to offer children new opportunities to learn. The managers involve staff and parents in evaluating practice and informing improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127755
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840708
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Weald Pre School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2010
Telephone number	01732 450272

Weald Pre-School registered in 1967 and is located in the village of Weald in Sevenoaks, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday during school term time. They offer sessions from 9am to 12pm or 9am to 3pm; a lunch club and breakfast club are also available. The pre-school employs seven staff members; five of whom, including the two managers, have appropriate level 3 early years qualifications. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years old.

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