

Crestway Pre-School

The Community Centre, Stonecross Lea, Chatham, Kent, ME5 0BL



Inspection date	1 October 2015
Previous inspection date	11 September 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are very well behaved and staff are positive role models. The warm relationships throughout the pre-school enable children to feel confident and secure.
- Staff make good use of information about children's progress and development. They plan activities which children enjoy and support them in making good progress in readiness for starting school.
- The strong leadership ensures that policies and procedures are clear and consistently implemented and all staff are enthusiastic about fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.
- Staff have established effective relationships with parents and other professionals. This ensures that children's emotional security and physical well-being are fully supported.
- The newly-developed outdoor area enables children to explore and investigate as they develop an interest in the natural world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to promote children's understanding of their own safety during the everyday routines.
- Although staff plan activities to support children's early writing skills, there are times when resources are not readily available for children to use.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's understanding of their own safety during everyday activities, such as when preparing to play outside
- provide a wider range of materials and opportunities for children to use writing in their play, and create purposes for independent writing.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children to take account of their views.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the pre-school owner who is also the manager.
- The inspector sampled planning and assessment records to assess children's progress over time.
- The inspector held meetings and discussions with the pre-school owner.
- The inspector scrutinised a range of records to assess the safety procedures at the pre-school.

Inspector

Linda du Preez

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective as all staff are clear about the procedures to keep children safe. Recruitment, induction and staff supervision procedures are robust. The manager observes staff practice and provides coaching and support for them along with a good range of training courses. This support means that the well qualified and experienced staff team continually develop skills to support children's learning. The provider's self-evaluation systems work well and improvements made promote positive outcomes for children. For example, the improvements to the outdoor area mean that children benefit from a wider range of learning experiences, which keep them motivated and eager to learn. Parents are very positive about the good quality of care and education their children receive. The strong partnerships with parents enhance continuity in children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The staff team knows each child on a personal level and are clear about their individual stage of development. Timely interventions by staff ensure that all children's needs are appropriately met. This means that children develop the skills and attributes needed to support their move on to school. However, there are occasions when resources for children to practise their early writing are not readily available. Nevertheless, the pre-school is generally well resourced with a wide range of exciting activities. Children particularly enjoy the outdoor activities which develop their curiosity and concentration skills. For example, they delight in 'searching for treasure' when they play in sand and explore sizes and quantities as they develop their mathematical thinking. Staff skilfully interact with children to extend and challenge their play and learning. This means that all children develop good communication and language skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The pre-school has an extremely calm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Staff are positive role models who have clear expectations regarding children's behaviour. Consequently, children are very well behaved and develop positive social skills, useful for their future learning. All staff are caring towards children and the key person arrangements ensure that all children receive the specific support they need. Risk assessments are robust and children are kept safe throughout all aspects of the routine. Staff encourage children to be independent in readiness for starting school, so children feel confident, emotionally prepared and positive.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff closely observe and assess children's learning and leaders oversee these assessments effectively. They plan well, taking into account each child's individual interests and stage of development. This consistent planning, along with good quality teaching, means staff and the leaders monitor children's learning well. Consequently, all children are supported to make sustained progress throughout their time at this stimulating pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY310892
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	1024182
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Deborah Anne Tutt
Date of previous inspection	11 September 2012
Telephone number	01634 844354

Crestway Pre-School is privately owned and opened in 2005 under the present owner. It operates from two rooms in a community centre building in the town of Chatham, Kent. The pre-school is open Monday from 9am to 12pm and Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm. Children may attend for a variety of sessions. The pre-school is open term time only. It receives funding for the provision of early education for children aged two, three- and four-years. There are six members of staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications.

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