

# Parkwood Pre-School

Parkwood Infant School, Deanwood Drive, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 9LP



<b>Inspection date</b>	9 November 2015
Previous inspection date	25 January 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- Overall, the quality of teaching across the pre-school is consistently outstanding. Staff use their strong knowledge of how children learn to provide an exceptional range of high-quality learning experiences. All children make excellent progress in their learning from their starting points.
- Management implements robust recruitment procedures to ensure suitability of staff for their role to work with children. The head of the pre-school is an inspirational leader. She shares her superb early years knowledge and expertise with staff, other childcare settings and schools to benefit children.
- Staff are excellent role models for children, who form secure emotional attachments with staff. Staff promote children's self-esteem, independence and self-care skills extremely well. Children are highly motivated, confident and eager to join in with activities.
- Staff have extremely high expectations of all children. Staff work highly successfully with parents and other professionals to rapidly plan for and close any gaps in children's learning. Management makes excellent use of funding received to benefit children.
- Children develop an excellent understanding of healthy eating and lifestyles. They benefit greatly from healthy snacks, regular fresh air and physical exercise.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make use of all opportunities to extend children's mathematical thinking skills and language.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the manager of the pre-school, staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager of the pre-school.
- The inspector checked a selection of documentation, including accident and incident records, safeguarding, the complaints procedure and records of staff suitability.
- The inspector spoke with two parents and viewed parents' written comments, and took account of their views.
- The inspector viewed a selection of children's assessment records, planning documentation and self-evaluation.

### Inspector

Angela Sharp

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

The manager has excellent knowledge of her role and responsibilities and is highly effective at implementing requirements. She works exceptionally well with staff to provide children with a meticulously planned learning environment which sparks children's imagination and interest. The management team meticulously gathers the views of children and adults to identify and act on areas of improvement which benefit the children. Staff have very strong links with the local children's centre and schools to promote continuity for children. Management uses robust performance management procedures to monitor the quality of teaching. Staff are encouraged to develop their practice further, for example through training, observations and mentoring. Safeguarding is effective.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

The manager and staff use newly introduced online assessments extremely well to monitor children's progress and to meet children's individual learning needs. Staff are superb at building on children's interests to motivate them to learn. For example, children were interested in space and the solar system. Staff extended children's learning, reinforcing the names and characteristics of the planets, through songs, rhymes and craft activities. Children were able to recall the names, characteristics and composition of planets. Children have excellent opportunities to develop early information technology skills. For example, staff encourage children to explore an interactive whiteboard, the school computer suite and to share their computer knowledge with other children. However, staff miss some opportunities to use mathematical language to extend children's learning.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

Children develop and thrive under the nurturing support of staff. Children's behaviour is exemplary; staff are extremely positive role models and remind children to be kind to one another. Staff help children to develop very high levels of confidence. They support children to listen intently and teach them to respond well to adults and each other. Staff teach children to value individual differences in the wider world extremely well and involve parents in children's learning. For example, they invite parents in to share their cooking skills, languages and cultures with the children. Staff promote children's health and well-being very well, such as through healthy snacks, regular fresh air and physical play indoors and outdoors. Staff teach children to develop a superb understanding of how to keep themselves safe on the internet and around unfamiliar people.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

Children thrive at the pre-school; they are confident, independent and highly motivated learners, who make excellent progress. They gain superb skills in preparation for school, such as communication and language, early writing and respect for others.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	103832
<b>Local authority</b>	Medway Towns
<b>Inspection number</b>	824737
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	3 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	36
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	44
<b>Name of provider</b>	Parkwood Pre-School
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	25 January 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01634 231425

Parkwood Pre-School opened in 1997. The pre-school is situated on the site of Park Wood Infant School, in Gillingham, Kent. It opens from 9.15am to 11.45am and 1pm to 3.30pm Monday to Friday, term time only. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three to four years. It also receives early years pupil premium. It supports disabled children, those who have special educational needs and children who are learning English as an additional language. A team of nine staff are employed. Eight staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, 4 or 5. The pre-school has followed the Reggio Emilia approach to early years since 2000.

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