

Castle Hill Pre-School

Fort Hill School, Kenilworth Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 8JQ



Inspection date	23 February 2018
Previous inspection date	20 May 2015

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The management team closely monitors the assessments of children's progress to check their accuracy. It addresses gaps in children's learning with staff. Additional funding is targeted well to support children that most need it. All children make good progress from the time they join the pre-school.
- Staff have continued to develop the reading area, it is bright and appealing for children of all ages. Children are excited as they engage in different types of books. Staff support children to identify letters and words as they carefully turn the pages.
- Parents' involvement in their children's education is good. Staff share details of learning with them on a daily basis. They offer parents advice about how to continue to support children with their early reading and writing at home.
- Staff are excellent role models. They demonstrate how to maintain a high standard of dental health, for instance, children thoroughly enjoy copying them and cleaning their teeth. They have fantastic fun as they display their dazzling smiles to their friends.
- Children display a high awareness of how to avoid risks in the environment. They are extremely caring and conscientious. They remind peers that the food grater blade is sharp and will cut them if they put their fingers too close.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not allow children time to process information fully to consider how they want to respond and answer questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer children plenty of time to respond to questions to help them develop their speaking and thinking skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to children about the toys they like to play with at school.
- The inspector spoke to parents about the support staff offer to children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and her deputy, and she asked them how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector observed an activity with the manager, and they evaluated what they had seen.
- The inspector discussed children's progress with staff and talked about the progress they are making.

Inspector

Julie Bruce

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are very knowledgeable about all aspects of safeguarding. They know what to do if they have any concerns about the behaviour of other staff towards children. The manager has a secure understanding of the information she needs to share with Ofsted, such as when there are new committee members. She supports them to fill out the correct paperwork so that the necessary background checks can be carried out. The manager takes her responsibility to supervise staff very seriously. She supports them to identify suitable training to raise the quality of teaching at the setting. For example, a member of staff enhanced her understanding of how to incorporate basic mathematics into play. Identifying numbers and using their counting skills are now part of children's everyday routine. Staff form good links with other practitioners that share the care of children. For instance, they talk about strategies they can follow to help children meet their next steps.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff encourage children to be imaginative and to use their storytelling skills. For example, they visited the pet shop and bought their favourite animals. They counted out the correct amount of money for the shopkeeper. Staff encouraged children to work together and they voted on how the story would develop. Children thoroughly enjoyed working together to complete the activity. Staff encourage children to develop a resilient attitude to learning. For instance, children took it in turns to estimate the number of children that would fit onto the soft mat. They were not worried whether their guesses were correct, they just attempted to guess again.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff plan a fantastic range of physical activities that encourages high levels of collaboration. For example, children worked together to 'drive' hula-hoop cars around the setting. They were incredibly successful as they worked together to negotiate the space around them without crashing. Staff support children to develop extremely high levels of personal responsibility. For instance, staff asked for help to clear the area. Children worked together to very carefully lift and move tables. Staff use highly effective methods to promote positive behaviour, such as when they use games to help children understand rules. Children always listen to instructions and they display excellent behaviour at all times.

Outcomes for children are good

Children who speak English as an additional language develop very good communication skills. Older children are focused and able to concentrate for very long periods. Children develop a good pencil grip and they discuss the meaning of the pictures that they draw. Children are well prepared for the move to the school environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110024
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1089058
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Castle Hill Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909894
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2015
Telephone number	01256 355 719

Castle Hill Pre-School registered in 1990. The group operates from a portable cabin within the site of Fort Hill Community School in Winklebury, Basingstoke. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.45am until 3pm, during term time only. The pre-school provides funded early education to two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school employs seven staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications. The manager holds a level 5 qualification and all other staff hold a qualification at level 3.

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