

Mayfield Pre-School

Court Meadow, Tunbridge Wells Road, MAYFIELD, East Sussex, TN20 6PJ



Inspection date

30 June 2015

Previous inspection date

10 March 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		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

- Children enjoy exploring a range of stimulating toys and resources which help them to develop in all areas of learning.
- Staff meet children's individual needs and abilities as they adapt how they interact with them and the activities they offer. This means all children make good progress.
- Children are independent and active learners who are free to express their thoughts and preferences. This helps them to develop good skills in preparation for school.
- Staff have a strong understanding of safeguarding procedures. Risk assessments ensure that children play in a safe and secure environment. As a result, children are protected from harm.
- Parents benefit from different ways to be involved in the daily life of the pre-school and their children's learning. Staff develop good relationships with parents and share information about children's changing care needs and progress.
- The management team has good arrangements in place to identify areas for development and to plan further improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always identify ways to use daily routines to promote children's learning and engagement. As a result, children are sometimes left waiting for an activity, such as snack or lunch, to be organised.
- Staff provide some opportunities for children to freely create marks with pencils, crayons and chalks. However, they do not always extend this learning so that children make meaningful marks to develop their early writing skills further.

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 daily routines so that children are actively involved in activities such as mealtimes to further promote their involvement and learning
- extend opportunities for children to make marks to develop their early drawing and writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions, the resources available and activities that children were engaged in.
- The inspector read written references and spoke to parents to take account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, the manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled documents including policies, procedures, children's learning documents and staff records.

Inspector

Anna Kersley

Inspection findings

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

Staff encourage children to learn through their enjoyment of the activities they provide. They cater for children's different interests indoors and outdoors. For example, children explore with paint and construction bricks inside. Outside they play with water, explore sensory sand trays with shells and challenge themselves on the climbing equipment. This means that children have choice over what they do and they are motivated to develop their skills through a variety of ways. Staff skilfully use questions to encourage their thinking skills and extend their play. For example, staff encourage children playing in the sand tray to listen carefully to the shells and talk about what they can hear. Staff recognise children's progress and include observations of children's achievements on the online system for parents. They encourage parents to contribute to children's learning records and to complete questionnaires. This enables parents to share children's ongoing achievements and helps staff to plan for their future learning and to reflect on their provision.

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

Staff fully welcome all children to the pre-school and they settle happily. Children feel safe and secure as management implements an effective key-person system. As a result, children feel confident to explore their surroundings and enjoy new experiences. Staff listen with interest to what children have to say. They offer positive responses with thoughtful questions, affection and praise. This helps to raise children's self-esteem. Staff ask children to sit down to eat and they role model good manners. As a result of these consistent boundaries, children behave well and develop good social skills. Children talk about healthy eating and how the fruit they eat gives them energy. This helps children to develop a secure understanding of how to keep healthy.

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

The manager has a good understanding of her role and responsibility. She monitors children's records to ensure that they all continue to make good progress. The manager works closely with her team to identify children's needs and to access support for them and their families. This means she has developed strong partnerships with parents, other professionals and settings. As a result, staff share information with other professionals, which helps to prepare children consistently for their next stage in learning. The manager values feedback from others, including parents and professionals, and uses this well to help inform improvement plans. Staff benefit from regular training, supervisions and staff meetings to help to develop their practice. This leads to positive changes in order to consistently raise standards for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109464
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	839603
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Mayfield Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 March 2011
Telephone number	01435 872523

Mayfield Pre-School has been in operation since the 1970s and is run by a parent committee. The pre-school is in the village of Mayfield, near to Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm and Friday from 9am to 12.30pm. There are seven staff employed to work with the children. Of these, five members of staff hold early years qualifications and two are working towards qualifications. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education.

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