

Little Squirrels Kilndown Pre-School Learning Group



Village Hall, Church Road, Kilndown, Cranbrook, TN17 2SF

Inspection date	10 November 2015
Previous inspection date	11 November 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- The quality of teaching is exceptional. Staff use their professional expertise to capture children's interests and inspire children to develop a real thirst for learning. As a result all children, including those who need additional support, make rapid progress in their learning and development.
- The pre-school manager has made an outstanding difference to the quality of provision in the short time she has been in post. She has been fully supported by the management committee and, as a result, relevant changes and improvements have rapidly been made.
- Children are extremely happy and settled at the pre-school. They thoroughly enjoy the sessions and make friends easily. Exceptional use is made of the adjoining woodland area to extend and enrich children's learning.
- Staff take every precaution to keep children safe and help them to learn about potential dangers. Highly effective teaching and close supervision means that children learn to play with sticks safely; they understand how to be safe around camp fires and use sharp knives to cut up their snacks competently and confidently.
- Children develop an excellent range of skills which help support their future learning. For example, they are extremely independent and are confident to try new things. As a result, children are very well prepared for starting school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to maintain the outstanding provision as new permanent staff join the team to ensure children's learning is consistently of the highest quality.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and support for children's learning, both inside and during the 'woodland adventures' outside.
- The inspector talked to staff about how they plan for each child's learning needs and how they monitor their progress.
- The inspector held discussions with the pre-school manager and the chairperson from the committee to evaluate how well the provision is monitored and how effectively improvements are made.
- The inspector spoke with children to find out what they enjoy doing at pre-school.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including records of children's progress, staff training files and suitability checks.
- The inspector talked to parents available on the day of inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jo Caswell HMI

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The pre-school manager is an inspirational leader. She has quickly assessed the positive aspects of the pre-school and accurately identified where improvements were necessary. Consistent monitoring, rigorous reflection of practice and staff development opportunities mean that improvements continue to be made and sustained. The management committee plays an integral role in driving improvement at a fast pace. The last year has been challenging for staff, yet the practice and support for children's learning has consistently improved. Partnerships with parents, other early years settings and local schools are excellent. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of their role and responsibilities in keeping children safe. Stringent policies are in place to ensure that staff act promptly if they have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The support for children's learning is exemplary. Staff utilise every opportunity, particularly outside, to extend children's knowledge and help children gain a real love of learning. Excellent exploratory play helps children to develop interest and curiosity. For example, a group of boys recently enjoyed taking a laptop apart and were fascinated by the different components. Small group activities mean children benefit from excellent attention from staff. This is particularly effective in extending children's language skills and helps them to concentrate for short periods and listen carefully. An outstanding range of learning takes place outside and this supports children's all-round development. For example, children work together in small groups to build dens in the woodland. This helps to extend their problem-solving skills, language development and creative ideas as they work out how their structures will stay upright.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children develop excellent levels of self-confidence and self-esteem as staff know them well and provide for their needs. The opportunities for children to take managed risks within activities helps to build their awareness of staying safe and the importance of following rules and guidelines. For example, before any activities in the woodland, staff remind children what they need to do to stay safe and what they must do if they hear the whistle. The key person system works very well and children approach staff confidently for support and reassurance. This means children continually feel safe and secure.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

The outstanding range of activities and high quality teaching means that all children make rapid progress. Excellent support for children who need additional help with their learning, and strong partnership working with other agencies and parents, means that any gaps in children's development are rapidly closed. Significant support is provided to help boys achieve well in their learning as staff are highly skilled in recognising how boys learn differently from girls.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY420264
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1006095
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Kilndown Pre School Learning Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 November 2014
Telephone number	01589 212606

Little Squirrels Kilndown Pre-School Learning Group is a committee run group that registered in 2010. It operates from the village hall in Kilndown, Kent. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area and extensive use of the adjoining woodland. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.15am to 1pm, term time only. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, children can stay for an extended session until 3pm. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register. There are currently 15 children on roll. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those who are learning English as an additional language. A team of two permanent staff work with the children supported by consistent bank staff who are known to the children. The two permanent staff both hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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