

Ide Hill Pre-School

Ide Hill Village Hall, Ide Hill, SEVENOAKS, Kent, TN14 6JG



Inspection date

2 July 2015

Previous inspection date

19 November 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The pre-school is exceptionally well led and managed. The underpinning principle of 'Excellence through hard work' ensures that highly skilled, motivated and dedicated staff lead by example. This significantly enhances children's learning experiences and ensures that staff provide them with nurturing care.
- Staff, parents and other professionals work together particularly closely, which means that they rapidly identify children's needs and meet them exceptionally well.
- Staff know the children extremely well and value their contributions. They extend their learning through effective questioning and stimulating challenges. As a result, children make rapid progress from their starting points.
- Staff carry out home visits and work in full partnership with parents to make children's settling-in process as smooth as possible. As a result, children display a very high level of confidence and a sense of belonging. They happily engage with staff and visitors to the pre-school.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. They meet staff's high expectations and learn the behaviour skills they need.
- Staff use rigorous systems of assessment to track children's progress. They take account of children's starting points and plan meticulously for their next stages of development. The manager meticulously monitors children's progress to identify any gaps in the learning of individuals or groups of children. This enables her to focus sharply on adapting teaching methods to help all children succeed.

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What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider further ways to extend the range of resources in expressive arts and design so that children can pursue their interests and choice of play even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children. The inspector considered their views.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching both inside and outside.
- The inspector examined documents and held meetings with the committee chair, manager and staff of the pre-school.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the manager and members of staff.
- The inspector read key policies and examined evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.

Inspector

Victoria Forbes

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Inspection findings**How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding**

Highly trained and experienced staff are extremely skilled at meeting children's individual learning needs. As a result, children thrive and are well prepared for moving on to school. Staff take swift action to ensure that each child is fully included and that their voice is heard. For example, they have a board showing what children have asked to do and use this to plan activities. Working in partnership with parents, staff are skilled at planning exceptional activities that motivate children to learn. For example, children relish pretending to be at the races and having different roles, such as giving out rosettes to the winning horses. Staff are skilled teachers who extend children's learning exceptionally well through effective questioning and discussion. Children develop an excellent understanding of mathematical ideas, such as 'in front of', 'behind' and 'in between'. They discuss a wide variety of general knowledge, such as spiders having eight eyes.

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

Staff nurture respect and treat children kindly. As a result, children develop warm and trusting relationships with staff, which help them feel exceptionally safe and secure. Staff use their own observations of children and work extremely closely with parents. This ensures that they are able to meet children's individual care needs to the very highest standard. Overall, staff use an extensive range of innovative resources to inspire, challenge and feed children's curiosity and imagination. Children are exceptionally knowledgeable about healthy diets and discuss the 'super foods' that keep 'your heart feeling better'. They develop fantastic independent skills as they clear away after they have snack, washing up their cups and plates and putting them away. They have excellent opportunities to enjoy physical challenges in the various well-equipped play areas outside.

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

The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They place the highest priority on children's safety. They attend courses to keep their knowledge of safeguarding as up to date as possible and to provide a safe and secure environment at all times. The inspirational manager rigorously monitors staff practice to identify their development needs and uses questionnaires to check they are abreast of any relevant changes. There is a display of positive comments about staff's achievements that helps to motivate staff. Staff make excellent use of what they learn to improve children's learning experiences. For example, they have adapted their practice following training on outdoor play so that children get the maximum benefit from their time outside. The manager works with all those involved in the group to evaluate the quality of the provision. This enables her to carefully target areas for further development.

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Setting details

Unique reference number	127275
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825407
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Ide Hill Preschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	19 November 2009
Telephone number	01732 750621

Ide Hill Pre-School registered in 1992 and is a committee-run group. The pre-school is open from 9.15am to 2.45pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding for free early education sessions for children aged three and four. There are eight staff who work directly with the children. All staff hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3, 4 or 5.

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