

Inspection of Netherfield Pre-School

Netherfield C of E Primary School, Darvel Down, Netherfield, Battle, East Sussex
TN33 9QF

Inspection date: 13 October 2023

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are extremely confident, enthusiastic and independent learners. They excitedly greet staff and their friends with great delight, showing enormous anticipation for their day. Children have exceptionally warm and respectful relationships with the staff. This allows them to feel safe, secure and develop their confidence to believe in themselves. Children demonstrate tremendously high levels of confidence.

Staff plan a remarkable, interesting and exciting curriculum. This enables children to be curious and inquisitive in their play, showing extreme motivation to learn. Children have free access to an enormous range of high-quality, stimulating and very intriguing resources. Staff make excellent use of children's interests. They further stimulate children's excitement, imagination and physical and language development during their play. For example, children enthusiastically hunt through sand looking for hidden bugs. They skilfully recall how to carefully transport bugs to the bug garden and how to ensure they are safe. Children learn how to care for bugs and plants, and learn about the life cycle of animals, to further stimulate their learning. Staff further support children's learning through conversations and resources to complement their interests.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The manager is inspirational. She values her staff and ensures they are part of any progress or change. The dedicated and committed staff are extremely supportive, motivating and inspire each other. The manager has very high expectations of herself and consistently drives to improve practice and enhance the opportunities and experiences for all children. Highly reflective self-evaluation accurately helps target improvements and shape the outstanding service provided.
- The manager and staff implement a unique curriculum that is designed to stimulate and inspire children. Children are exceedingly motivated and tremendously enthusiastic to join in, share and cooperate with each other. Children clearly make full use of their creative potential in a variety of ways. They demonstrate high levels of self-control and consistently keep on trying hard, even if they encounter difficulties. For example, children concentrate intently trying to master using pipettes, prior to experimenting mixing water with cornflour.
- Staff consistently involve children in 'mind maps', enabling children to further develop and build connections and consequences for activities. For example, children thoroughly recall and understand the rules regarding using the ball pool. Children have consistently high levels of respect for others. They confidently demonstrate an excellent understanding of why behaviour rules are in place and

recognise the impact their behaviour has on others.

- Staff provide excellent opportunities to help develop and extend all children's language and literacy skills. Children are extremely confident when talking to friends, adults and others.
- Excellent support for mathematics is imbedded in everyday play and activities. Children learn about capacity as they fill and empty containers using sand and water. They count, compare sizes and talk about capacity as they play imaginatively.
- Staff promote children's health and welfare needs exceedingly well. They teach children excellent hygiene routines and support them to manage their own personal care. For example, children take full responsibility for serving themselves at snack time, pour their own drinks and safely cut fruit. Children become independent in self-care, including putting on their own outdoor clothes. They demonstrate an excellent awareness of washing their hands on arrival and after playing in the garden. These skills, along with the impressive learning that takes place, prepare children well for moving on in their education.
- Staff keep parents fully up to date with their children's learning and give excellent support when appropriate. Parents are extremely complimentary about the staff and the relationships their children have with them.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive superb support. Staff identify outstanding strategies to support individual needs of children. Therefore, any gaps in learning and behaviour are rapidly identified and supported. Staff have excellent relationships with other professionals involved in children's care. The manager uses additional funding astutely to address gaps in learning to help children catch up quickly. All children, including those in receipt of additional funding, make excellent progress in their learning and development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have an outstanding knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures. They expertly demonstrate an excellent understanding of possible signs and symptoms that indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The staff team is extremely well deployed, and all staff are exceedingly diligent in their supervision of children. The manager implements stringent recruitment procedures, ensuring all staff working with children are suitable. All staff have completed safeguarding and paediatric first-aid training, which further enhances their skills and knowledge. There are stringent risk assessment procedures in place to help to ensure children's safety is always maintained.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY370015
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10307878
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Netherfield Pre-School Trustees Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910538
Telephone number	01424 838 714
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Netherfield Pre-School registered in 2008. The pre-school operates from a self-contained building in the grounds of Netherfield Primary School, East Sussex. It is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm, term time only. The pre-school employs four members of staff, including the manager. Of these, the manager holds qualified teacher status at level 6 and two members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school receives government funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Teresa Colburn

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at pre-school.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children. Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual and manager about the leadership and management of the setting. The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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