

Inspection of Little Gems Pre-School, Hedge End

Berrywood Primary School, Maunsel Way, Hedge End, SOUTHAMPTON SO30 2TL

Inspection date: 9 May 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children receive a warm welcome from the caring and attentive staff, when they arrive at pre-school. They snuggle in with their key person if they feel unsettled. Staff provide lots of reassurance, which supports children's emotional well-being.

Children spend much of their time outside, and staff plan a broad curriculum that builds on children's experiences and interests. Staff provide many opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. This includes activities to encourage coordination, such as jumping and hopping. Children confidently follow instructions to place beanbags on their feet and then to balance on one leg. If the beanbags fall off, they quickly place them back on again, showing perseverance in their play.

Staff promote children's independence well. For example, they encourage children to pour their own drinks at snack time. Children take turns during activities, such as memory games. They excitedly share which item is missing from the tray when it is their time to speak.

Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. When children occasionally struggle to share, staff sensitively step in to support them in their play. All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make good progress from their starting points.

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

- Leadership is strong. The pre-school has been open for a year and the leadership team have a clear vision for the future. They continually review the provision and have plans to further develop the outside area. Staff report their well-being is good and they feel supported in their roles. They have opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge further through ongoing training.
- Staff support children with SEND well. They attend training to ensure their knowledge is current. Regular monitoring and discussions help to ensure children's individual next steps are appropriate. Staff work very effectively with other agencies. This helps to ensure children have their needs identified and met at the earliest opportunity.
- The leadership team understand the importance of partnership working with the other pre-schools and childminders children attend. This helps to ensure that, together, they meet the children's individual needs and interests. The leadership team talk about the importance of getting children ready for school and encouraging children's independence from an early age. They have strong links with the local schools, which helps to ensure smooth transitions when the children move on to the next stage in their education.

- Staff help children to understand the importance of leading healthy lifestyles. They serve a variety of fruit for snack and work with parents to provide nutritious lunch boxes. Staff encourage children to wash their hands before snack time and after using the toilet. This helps children begin to understand the importance of personal hygiene.
- Overall, staff support children's language and communication skills well. They model correct pronunciation through small focus groups to encourage children's vocabulary. However, on occasion staff ask questions that require only one-word responses and sometimes they receive no reply. Staff do not always ensure questions are relevant and helpful to extend learning even further.
- The leadership team and staff support children's sense of security and well-being very well. They gain much information about the children before they start at the pre-school. As part of the settling-in process, they ask parents for photographs of the children in advance. This helps to ensure each child has their picture on their coat peg for their first visit. Staff support children when they arrive, offering cuddles and reassurance. They make sure they have the children's favourite toys readily available to ease separation.
- Partnership with parents is very strong. Staff share information about next steps in children's development. Parents speak highly of the staff team, saying they are 'amazing'. Staff organise social events inviting parents into the pre-school. They recently held a 'Mother's Day Tea' with sandwiches made by the children. A book lending library and themed bags on popular topics, such as 'potty-training', help to support children's learning at home. This joined-up approach enables children to thrive in their development.
- The staff support children to develop positive attitudes to learning and provide activities to encourage their perseverance. For example, children work together to make pyramids from the magnetic shapes the staff lay out for them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop staff's use of effective teaching strategies in order to further extend children's thinking, communication and language skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2772832
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10402280
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Akins, Gemma Louise
Registered person unique reference number	RP513200
Telephone number	07852 303197
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Gems Pre-School, Hedge End registered in January 2024. It is located in Hedge End, Hampshire. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday during school term times from 8.15am to 3.30pm. There are eight members of staff, five of whom have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lindsay Osman

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity.
- 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025