

Mulberry Preschool

Mulberry Road, Marchwood, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 4WB



Inspection date	22 February 2018
Previous inspection date	20 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The staff and management team have a good collaborative working partnership to ensure the pre-school is continuously improving. For example, they are developing the outside area extensively to include interesting and exciting resources, such as role-play and digging areas, to support children in their learning.
- The manager supports staff to develop professionally by providing relevant training courses. For example, a training course on speech and language has resulted in targeted teaching.
- The staff interact well with children. They build on what children know and can do. Children make good progress in all areas of learning.
- Children enjoy warm and close relationships with staff, who support their needs well. Staff have very good partnerships with parents and carers, who say they are happy with the nurturing and care their children receive.
- Staff promote healthy lifestyles, for example, children enjoy healthy snacks and staff provide them with plenty of opportunities for physical activity and rest.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently gather information from all those involved in children's development to target children's goals and plan next steps from the beginning to help them make the best possible progress.
- On occasions, staff do not make the best use of resources during activities to extend children's language development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the sharing of information, to help staff consistently identify children's starting points accurately and plan for their next steps in learning
- make better use of the learning environment to enrich children's language during play activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to staff and children, and reviewed the resources available.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team about leadership and management and looked at relevant documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector closely observed the staff's interactions with children and discussed the effectiveness of the activities with them.
- The inspector spoke to some parents about the setting and took account of their views.

Inspector

Penelope Redwood

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

All staff show dedication and enjoyment in working with children. Safeguarding is effective. Management follows robust procedures when recruiting staff. Through continuous self-reflection, the manager and staff address any weaknesses in practice and identify areas for improvement. For example, they have introduced a wider range of activities, which supports staff in challenging children to solve problems and think independently. For instance, children use natural ingredients, such as plants and leaves, to make 'potions' in the mud kitchen and negotiate climbing over large tractor tyres outside. The manager has introduced systems for tracking children's progress to help improve accuracy and consistency. Parents say they are happy with the exciting and challenging environment the staff provide and the progress their children make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan activities that focus on children's interests and needs. For example, staff support children who are going to school by providing plenty of writing activities, such as painting, drawing, and using mark-making tools in the sand. Staff skilfully use mathematical language as they play alongside the children. Such as counting in sequence at every opportunity and talking about the size, density, and weight of items. Staff generally model good language and clear speech, to support young children with their communication and language development, such as when they talk about their favourite stories at story time. Staff plan activities well and meet the needs of all children. For example, children enjoy planting broad beans, watering them, and watching them grow through the summer season.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff recognise children's individuality very well. They provide consistent behavioural expectations and are positive role models. Staff support children to share and take turns. For example, children of different ages take it in turns to climb and slide down the large climbing frame outside, learning to stay safe. Children relate well to the staff and confidently seek their attention. Staff encourage children to learn about the world in which they live very effectively, such as planning different days of cultural celebrations throughout the calendar year.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress that helps them to prepare for their next stage of learning at school. For example, they develop good writing skills, and write letters and make marks with pens on paper. Children develop good social skills and are independent, such as putting on their coats to go outside. Children really enjoy their day as they take part in a wide variety of activities, including play dough, painting and singing songs, and are physically active.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511344
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1091193
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Mulberry Pre-School
Registered person unique reference number	RP519587
Date of previous inspection	20 March 2015
Telephone number	02380 660354

Mulberry Preschool registered in 2001. The pre-school opens five days a week during term time only, with daily sessions from 8.30am to 3.30pm, including a lunch club. The pre-school offers free early education to children aged two-, three- and four-years-old. There are 11 staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

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