

Sunflower Pre-School

Germander Park County First School, 1 Germander Place, Conniburrow, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK14 7DU



Inspection date 16 January 2015
Previous inspection date 8 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff ensure daily routines enable children to benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted play and learning.
- Staff use available resources to promote learning in all areas and make especially good use of resources to promote counting and problem solving.
- Staff have effective partnerships with parents and other professionals, which supports children's learning at pre-school and at home.
- Staff promote children's good health by providing healthy snacks and plenty of opportunities to be out in the fresh air.
- All staff have a strong commitment to keeping children safe and take active steps to do so.
- The provider and the manager take time to reflect on their practice and have a strong commitment to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the best use of opportunities to promote literacy during children's free play to encourage them to explore writing for a purpose.
- Although staff are vigilant about supervising children outside they are not always as involved in their play and learning as they are when indoors.
- The manager is still establishing systems for monitoring all children's progress. These are effective in assessing the development of individual children but do not currently support her to precisely monitor the progress of specific groups of children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further opportunities to promote literacy during activities and daily routines
- build on existing good practice to ensure that the quality of teaching outdoors is as consistently good as it is indoors.
- enhance systems for monitoring the progress of children to more easily identify groups of children who may benefit from additional, targeted support.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed, and talked to, staff and children.
- The inspector observed care routines.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector met with the manager and sampled documentation, including children's records and the safeguarding policy.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide a good range of activities to promote children's all round learning and development. Children make choices, play cooperatively and are enthusiastic learners. For example, on arrival they are pleased to find a tray of glitter and scoops, and plenty of construction materials to build a fairy castle. Staff help children to develop new skills and acquire more knowledge. They talk with children about how fruit grows and help them recall familiar stories. Staff also effectively help children to develop counting skills. They encourage children to share books at home and plan activities to develop the muscles they need to write and draw. However, staff do not always use opportunities to promote children's literacy in their freely chosen play. Overall the quality of teaching is good, although staff sometimes challenge and extend children's learning more readily indoors than they do outdoors. Regular sharing of information help parents to support children's learning at home. Children are well prepared for their future learning and to start school.

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

Children build warm and trusting relationships with all staff, especially their key person. They know that they can approach any member of staff for help or reassurance. Children enjoy healthy snacks and regular opportunities to cook for themselves. The manager encourages parents to provide wholesome packed lunches. All children benefit from lots of opportunities for active play outside every day. They learn how to keep themselves healthy by blowing their noses and by washing their hands before they eat. Staff encourage children to be independent and, because of this, children manage their own needs well for their age. For example, many older children put on their own coats before going outside. The manager has a very good understanding of her responsibility to safeguard children. She ensures all staff share her commitment to this and fully understand what actions they must take if they have concerns about any child.

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

The provider and manager understand their responsibility to provide good quality care and education. Effective recruitment arrangements help ensure staff suitability. There are effective systems for monitoring staff performance, which help ensure the overall quality of teaching. There are equally effective systems for monitoring the progress made by individual children. However, these do not currently allow the manager to easily build an accurate picture of the progress being made by different groups of children. Effective self-evaluation accurately identifies areas for improvement and prompt action is taken to address these. For example, the manager has recently improved the opportunities for children to cook. Partnerships with other professionals are a real strength and children and families benefit from this supportive working practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY307484
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	987904
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	Sunflower Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 June 2011
Telephone number	01908 528934

Sunflower Pre-School registered in 1997 and re-registered in the current premises in 2005. A committee of volunteers manage the pre-school. It is located in a self-contained unit in Germander Park County School, in Conniburrow, Buckinghamshire. It has the use of two rooms, a kitchenette, office and toilets. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. The pre-school has close links with the school and the attached children's centre. Opening times are 9.00am until 3.00pm, Monday to Friday during term time. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are seven members of staff, of whom six hold relevant childcare qualifications, including the manager who has Early Years Professional Status.

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