

Willow Tree Pre-School

Ifield Community Centre, Dobbins Place, Hyde Drive, CRAWLEY, West Sussex, RH11 0PL



Inspection date	5 February 2015
Previous inspection date	7 February 2012

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 provide children with a broad range of activities that complement all areas of learning and development. The environment is welcoming for children, which motivates them to learn and enables them to settle quickly.
- The staff are committed to improving their practice. They have effective systems in place to monitor their provision and develop the learning opportunities for children. Therefore, all children are making good progress.
- Staff are skilled at promoting children's communication and language development. They use a range of questioning techniques that encourage discussion and allow children time to process the information and respond with their ideas.
- Children benefit from daily opportunities to experience the outdoor environment. They visit adventure playgrounds and take part in Forest School activities. These experiences contribute to a healthy lifestyle and understanding of the natural world.
- Staff have good relationships with parents. Communication is effective and staff tailor support to meet the individual needs of each family.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always manage group times well. This means that children occasionally become disengaged and are not able to concentrate.
- At times, children run around in the indoor area, bump into each other and trip over resources. Staff do not always help children learn how to keep themselves safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the size of group times to help children develop their concentration skills so they remain engaged during these activities
- enhance children's knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe in the indoor environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor environment.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector tracked children's development and sampled the settings policies and procedures.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback on the setting and staff.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

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

Children are able to explore their environment freely. They develop their independence because they choose what they would like to do. Staff plan activities based on children's interests and their next steps in learning, and information from parents. This ensures activities provide suitable challenge and prepare them for their move to school. Staff observe children as they play and subtly incorporate teaching to extend their learning. For example, staff know that children enjoy singing and joining in with the actions. Therefore, they suggest different nursery rhymes, which include rhyming words and numbers. Staff talked about the snowy weather and discussed with children what they would need to wear in the garden. Children are keen to participate in discussions, however, the group size at times too large for all children to join in. This means that some children become disengaged and staff miss opportunities to develop children's learning.

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

Children have good relationships with the staff; they actively seek them out to show them their creative work. Staff respond with high levels of praise and encouragement, which develops children's confidence and self-esteem. Children play well together. They enjoy dressing up as super heroes and using the climbing apparatus to make a den. They slide through and climb up the railings and discuss with each other what they are going to do next. However, children often run around the room during play and fall over or bump into each other. Staff ask children to, 'use their walking feet inside' but do not explain why. This means that children do not have a secure understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Staff encourage children to share and to find possible solutions to their problems. This develops children's social skills. Children take part in daily tasks, such as tidying away their toys. This encourages children to take responsibility for their environment.

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

Staff are confident in their knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Staff effectively risk assess the environment and encourage children to take safe risks while being supervised. Staff are committed to keeping their child protection training up to date which helps to ensure that they keep children safe from harm. Management assess the development needs of all staff during regular supervision and appraisal sessions. They identify suitable training to help enhance their practice. Some staff have attended a course in meaningful mark making. This has helped staff to enhance the environment to improve children's physical and early writing skills. The manager holds meetings with the staff to discuss children's development. The staff have good relationships with additional settings children attend, external agencies and local schools. They understand the importance of working in partnership to support children's development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434410
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	823986
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Willow Tree Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2012
Telephone number	01293537400

Willow Tree Pre-school registered in 2011. It operates from the Community Centre in Ifield West Crawley, West Sussex. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The setting receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The setting is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.45am to 2.45pm during term time only. The setting has six staff. The area manager has Early Years Professional Status, the manager holds an early years qualification at level 4 and three staff hold an early years qualification at level 3.

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