

Courtfields Community Pre-School



Court Fields Community School, Mantle Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8SW

Inspection date 4 February 2015
Previous inspection date 17 May 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

- Children are enthusiastic learners who make good progress. The quality of teaching is consistently good. All staff have a thorough understanding of each child's learning objectives. They promote these through extremely effective planning of activities and resources.
- Children are supported very well as they settle in. Their key person is there to help them become familiar with the setting and help them make new friends. As a result, children's sense of belonging quickly develops, and they show very good levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- Parents are actively involved in their children's learning throughout their children's time in the setting. They provide detailed information about their children's interests and learning at home. This helps staff in establishing children's starting points, which provide a good baseline for monitoring future progress.
- Self-evaluation is good. Feedback from staff, parents, and observations of children contribute to effective changes to practice that benefits children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of learning opportunities at mealtimes to extend children's social skills and independence further. This is because they do not provide plates or bowls for children to use at snack time, meaning they place food directly on the table. Also, staff do not involve children in helping to prepare for their meals, for example, by helping to make the sandwiches.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use mealtimes to develop children's learning, independence and social skills further

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children during activities.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents, staff, and committee members.
- The inspector tracked individual children and looked at their learning records to assess the progress they have made.
- The inspector sampled regulatory documents, such as safeguarding procedures and accident records.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

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

Children are keen and eager participants in activities. They are curious and inquisitive, and thoroughly enjoy experiments. For example, children of different ages playing around the water tray identified that some containers filled more quickly than others did. Skilful questions from staff enabled children to identify that the size of the container and whether it had a 'big hole' or a 'little one' made a difference. Staff have a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. Their good assessments enable them to identify any child who needs additional support promptly, and where any children are exceeding expectations. This results in well focused planning to promote children's individual progress. This prepares children well for the next stage in their learning, including moving on to school. Staff involve parents in their children's learning. For instance, children learn to use sign language and staff encourage parents to practise this with them at home.

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

The very well structured key-person system contributes highly to children's emotional security and well-being. Very young children particularly benefit and quickly form strong bonds with familiar adults. Children receive ongoing praise and encouragement, which further supports their confidence. For example, children concentrated hard to build a model with recycled materials. Once finished, staff called attention to how fantastic this was, resulting in children delightedly 'high-fiving' each other. At snack time, all children confidently pour their own drinks and help themselves from a selection of fruit and vegetables. However, staff miss opportunities to extend children's learning further during this time. Staff support outdoor learning well. When children's free access to the garden was temporarily limited, staff made good alternative arrangements. For example, 'explorer walks' were introduced. Every day, children explored different aspects of neighbouring fields. They listened for and identified bird songs, and surveyed trees and shrubs. These activities securely promote children's emotional and physical well-being.

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

Staff understand and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well. Good self-evaluation and staff supervision result in focused action plans for ongoing improvement. Management monitor these well to make sure children benefit. For example, staff attended training focusing on the needs of two-year-olds. This resulted in reviewing and improving support during mixed-age group activities. All staff complete safeguarding training and have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children. Designated, trained, members of the committee provide additional support in this area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143057
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	841574
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Courtfields Community Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 May 2011
Telephone number	01823 662 049

Courtfields Community Pre-School is run by a voluntary management committee. It operates from rooms within Courtfields Community School in Wellington, Somerset. The pre-school has its own enclosed outdoor areas and has use of the school fields. They are registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The pre-school is open term time only, operating Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 3.15pm. There are five members of staff employed to work with children. Four of these have level 3 early years qualifications, and one has an early years degree.

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