

Wensum Valley Nursery School

Wensum Road, Lyng, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 5RJ



Inspection date	5 February 2015
Previous inspection date	26 March 2010

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 a wide range of activities that promote children's learning effectively. Consequently, children are enthusiastic, active learners who are keen to explore and investigate independently.
- Children benefit from a well-resourced learning environment. They have access to the outdoor areas in all weathers, which enhances children's development across all areas of learning.
- Staff demonstrate skilful use of vocabulary and use open-ended questions to develop and extend children's understanding and communication skills.
- Staff know how to build strong attachments with children and parents which supports children's sense of well-being and security.
- Staff fully understand their role in safeguarding children. They provide a high quality nursery that is welcoming, safe and stimulating.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Management do not always make the most of opportunities for staff to observe each other's practice and provide effective feedback on how to improve their already good teaching skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen systems of monitoring staff practice so that teaching and learning is continually improving by, for example, introducing regular opportunities for peer observations.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff working within the setting, the provider's self-evaluation and a range of other documentation including risk assessments and policies.
- The inspector also took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Caroline Clarke

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide stimulating activities based on children's interests and this promotes good development across all seven areas of learning. Parents are involved in their children's learning because staff make good use of the website, newsletters and meetings to share ideas of how to promote development at home. As part of National Storytelling Week, parents have visited the nursery to read stories to the children. Staff play alongside children, using questioning and language effectively to help children learn. Consequently, all children, including those who are learning English as an additional language, are confident talkers. Staff observe children closely as they play, making accurate assessments and planning carefully for their next steps in learning. Children gain the skills they need for school by practising early writing, counting and phonics skills. Children have a good understanding of routines, listening well and concentrating on tasks for long periods. They show independence and confidence, knowing where to find equipment and how to tidy up.

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

Staff encourage children to learn about keeping healthy by providing nutritional snacks and plenty of fresh air and exercise. The outdoor learning space is well resourced and organised, providing rich learning experiences in all weathers. Children behave well and learn how to take turns because staff manage situations consistently. For example, children are reminded of using 'kind hands' as they play together. Children move around the nursery independently and are encouraged to develop their self-help skills and assist with snack time. Staff encourage children to grow in confidence by taking risks within a safe environment. For example, they tell the children that the ground may be slippery and support and encourage them as they use the slide. Good settling-in procedures are in place, ensuring that families are well supported emotionally, when their children first join the nursery.

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

The manager has a thorough understanding of her responsibilities and implements a range of policies and procedures to support the work of the nursery. Children's progress is monitored effectively, ensuring that any gaps in progress are quickly identified and addressed. Strong partnerships with outside professionals and other providers mean that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress. Parents are very positive about the nursery, stating how much progress their children have made and how keen they are to attend. The manager has a clear understanding of what the nursery does well and how it can further improve. The strong staff team continually strive to improve outcomes for children and are passionate in their roles. Staff training has a good impact on children's learning, particularly in the areas of assessment, observation and behaviour management. Staff, however, do not have sufficient opportunities to observe one another and learn from each other's best practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	254164
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	864531
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	23
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Wensum Valley Nursery School Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2010
Telephone number	01603 872252

Wensum Valley Nursery School was registered in 1999. It operates from a purpose built classroom in the grounds of Lyng Primary School. The nursery is open, from 9am to 3pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term time only. The nursery employs five members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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