

Mansel Minis Community Pre-School



Mansel Park Primary School, Culver Close, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 9HZ

Inspection date 10 February 2015
Previous inspection date 1 April 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- The staff observe and assess children well. They plan interesting activities for the children for whom they take responsibility, in small groups through good teaching. These experiences help children to make clear progress from their starting abilities on entry. Children learn vital skills for school readiness.
- Staff relationships with children and parents are strong at all levels because of the established methods of working that successfully help children and families to feel secure and welcome.
- Staff safeguard children well because they follow stipulated procedures to protect children and keep them safe.
- The large well-equipped playroom and outdoor areas meet children needs well. A new climbing wall is a great addition offering good challenge to children's physical skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Teaching strategies to keep noise levels down and to stop children running indoors are not always successful.
- Methods to make sure all staff have very high expectations of themselves and receive the individual training they need are not established fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop high-quality, professional staff coaching and supervision based on sharply focused evaluations of staff practice to ensure teaching is of the very highest quality
- develop further strategies for use in reducing noise levels in the playroom and raise children's expectations of themselves to develop high levels of self control.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's play activities indoors and out, including some group activities, and looked at the available resources and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy about their leadership and management, including evaluation methods and how they assess children's progress.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

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

Children benefit positively from their early years experience. Staff help them to successfully make good progress from their starting abilities on entry. This is because of the stimulating and welcoming play areas provided and the individual support children receive from adults. Most staff often get down to children's eye level to talk with them and most are skilled at working with them, building on what children already know and can do. Staff promote children's personal skills, such as when they put on coats. They help children speak confidently by joining in repetitive elements of favourite stories. Children understand mathematical language such as, 'more' and 'less' and learn to solve simple problems. Children explore ice using their senses and staff ask varied questions to promote thinking and talking. Staff have undertaken training in a national literacy programme and now promote children's communication and language skills well. They involve parents in their children's language development by providing useful guidance.

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

All children are very settled, happy and show they feel emotionally secure in the nurturing environment staff provide. Children have a keen sense of belonging because they are proud of their achievements, particularly those who sometimes find it difficult to follow staff expectations. They smile and proudly show off special certificates received. Nevertheless, on occasion some children run in the large indoor space and noise levels are high with children shouting; current staff teaching strategies are not completely successful in addressing this weakness. Outdoors, children have a lot of fun in the physically challenging play areas. Staff maintain children's good health well and children gain useful skills by helping prepare their food.

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

The close-knit management and staff team work collaboratively and effectively to implement requirements. Leadership regularly discusses the staff team's ongoing performance. Leadership address instances of significant underperformance. Training priorities, evaluation and improvement is ongoing and successful. Recent training about boys and behaviour has resulted in better quality teaching methods to engage and motivate the boys productively, but more needs to be done. The scrutiny of staff performance, particularly during observations of individual teaching, is not of the highest quality. Good communication systems exist to liaise with parents. Staff regularly share useful information on children's care and education. Partnerships with staff in external agencies and schools are well established, including with the local safeguarding children's board.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131545
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	965231
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Mansel Mini Community Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 April 2014
Telephone number	023 8070 1546

Mansel Minis Community Pre-School opened in 1997 and registered with Ofsted in 2001 on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register. A committee of parent volunteers manages the pre-school. It operates from a room on the site of Mansel Primary School in the Millbrook area of Southampton. Children have access to an enclosed garden. The pre-school provides free early education for children aged three and four years. The pre-school is open on weekdays from 8.45am to 3.15pm during school term times. There are eight staff who work with the children, all of whom hold recognised qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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