

Star Playschool and Nursery

Chiltern Primary School, Chiltern Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG22 5BB



Inspection date

12 February 2015

Previous inspection date

12 March 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

- Staff have a good understanding of the children's individual needs and care routines. This allows them to offer good quality teaching and learning.
- Children throughout the nursery are happy and confident. They demonstrate good relationships as they greet each other with enthusiasm and care. This demonstrates that children's personal, social and emotional development is strong.
- Children's independence is well supported as they access toys and resources stored at their height to encourage them to choose for themselves. In addition, children's self-help skills are promoted as staff encourage them to pour their own drinks at meal times. This supports children's future learning.
- Parents benefit from a good range of information available to them. This includes daily feedback, notice boards and access to the nursery's policies and procedures.
- The leadership team and staff have a good understanding of the strengths of the nursery and use a variety of systems to self-evaluate. They demonstrate a commitment to sustaining ongoing improvements and have good plans for the future of the garden space.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children within the pre-school room have few opportunities to link sounds and letters together to support their developing reading skills.
- Limited resources and activities are available to promote children's understanding and awareness of diversity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills, with specific regards to linking sounds to letters
- continue to build children's understanding of the wider world by increasing the number of toys and resources that reflect diversity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the play environments, the children at play and the staff's interaction with them.
- The inspector discussed practice with the committee, management and staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled records and documentation, including children's progress records.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents to gain their feedback about the nursery.

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection findings

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

Staff enhance children's development effectively through well-planned and purposeful activities. For example, children in the toddler room extend their creativeness as they freely add glitter to play dough creations. Staff successfully support children throughout the nursery in their communication and language skills through singing sessions, stories and daily interaction with staff. However, staff do not take all opportunities in the pre-school room to support children's literacy skills by linking sounds to letters. Children enjoy exploring with toys that operate for different purposes, although they have few chances to explore with resources that reflect ethnicity and diversity. Despite this, the setting has a variety of books and plans show links to festival celebrations.

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

The key person approach is promoted well in the nursery to support children's confidence. All children receive a good amount of praise and encouragement from the staff. Their artwork is displayed attractively throughout the environment, which supports their self-esteem. The nursery is clean and well-maintained, effectively promoting children's health. Children's dietary needs are met as the nursery provides healthy snacks and frequent access to drinking water. Children develop a good understanding of how to be safe with timely reminders from staff. For example, they are asked to walk slowly in the main play room and are involved in games to enhance their understanding of the emergency services. This helps children to learn about what they need to do in an emergency. All children enjoy the outdoor areas, which provide a variety of activities and resources to promote their physical development.

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

The leadership team and staff have worked very hard to enhance the provision since their last inspection. Through effective leadership and staff commitment they have successfully enhanced the quality of care they offer to the children. Safeguarding is given high priority in the nursery, with staff knowing the roles and responsibilities to ensure that all children are safe. In addition, there are robust recruitment and vetting procedures to safeguard children. Staff are well supported and there are good methods to mentor and appraise staff regularly. Parents speak highly of the nursery and staff, indicating that they value the service provided. Strong partnerships with other professionals support and aid children's progress when needed. This promotes a consistent approach to meeting children's care and learning needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY314841
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	978888
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	69
Number of children on roll	102
Name of provider	Star Playschool and Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 March 2014
Telephone number	01256 473345

Star Playschool and Nursery registered in 2005 and is committee run. It is registered on the Early Years Register. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks a year except for bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four. The nursery employs 16 staff all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications ranging from a level 2 to a level 6. In addition the nursery employs an administrator and an accountant.

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