

Shaw and Whitley Pre School

The Beeches, Shaw, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8EW



Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

13 September 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

- Teaching is rooted in a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. Management and staff are skilled at knowing how and when to extend and intervene in play, to enable children to make the most out of learning opportunities.
- Staff act as good role models, and are reassuring and friendly. This helps children feel secure, and is reflected in their positive behaviour, growing confidence and independence during play.
- The partnerships formed with parents, school and partner agencies are good. Consequently, staff effectively manage children's time at the setting and their eventual move onto school, through an inclusive, shared approach to their ongoing learning and development.
- Leadership and management are good. The manager recognises the value of continuous professional development and uses self-evaluation to improve the quality of provision for all children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the indoor role-play area lacks challenge for children, which means that there are some missed opportunities to further develop and extend their imagination, play and learning.
- Staff do not always extend opportunities for children to see print, and learn about and use words and numbers, in the outdoor environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further the role play area by offering a more challenging range of resources and opportunities to further extend children's play and learning
- increase opportunities for children to see and use print and numbers in the outdoor environment, for example by displaying names and signs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises, and observed children playing in the main playroom and the outdoor play area.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, the self-assessment information, children's observation, assessment and planning records, and documentation linked to managing children's progress.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Julie Swann

Inspection findings

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

Management and staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. A detailed system of observation and assessment means that the staff team plans specifically for the needs of each child, in order to plan challenging experiences for individuals and groups of children. As a result, children make good progress. Children's communication and language development is good. This is because management and staff use positive teaching methods, such as asking challenging questions and introducing new vocabulary during activities. The indoor role-play areas are popular with children. For example, they spend time putting their babies to sleep, and pretending to make cakes and cook dinner. However, at times, this area is not challenging enough because children do not have access to a broad enough range of resources, such as a play kitchen, to maximise their imaginative play and learning.

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

An effective key person system is in place, which helps promote children's well-being and emotional attachments. This is evident when the child's 'special person' supports them when they arrive. Children develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe and how to manage risks in their environment. For example, they often remind each other not to run or they will 'bump'. Management and staff are enthusiastic in their approach to being outdoors and this means children adopt the same attitude. Staff plan first-hand experiences outdoors, and the environment is creatively organised to enable children to pursue and lead their own learning. However, staff miss opportunities for children to see print and numerals in the outdoor area. This means children's understanding of how words and numbers can be used in different environments is not fully supported.

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

Management and staff have a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, and all staff undertake training in child protection. This means staff are confident and know what to do, should they have any concerns about a child's welfare or about a colleague. Consequently, children are kept safe. The management team monitors the educational programmes and the quality of teaching very closely. The manager works alongside staff daily, and annual appraisals, regular supervisions and peer-to-peer observations are completed. This means staff can take an active role in closely examining and developing their own and each other's practice. The manager is supportive of staff's continuing professional development and actively encourages ongoing training opportunities, in order to continually improve the quality of teaching. This means all children receive good quality and targeted learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	145836
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	841712
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	Shaw and Whitley Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	13 September 2011
Telephone number	01225 702945

Shaw and Whitley Pre-School operates from the village hall in Shaw, Melksham. The pre-school is open term-time only on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8.45am until 3pm. There are 19 children on roll. The pre-school employs four members of staff. Of these, the manager holds a childcare qualification at level 4, two staff members hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one staff member is currently undertaking an appropriate qualification. The pre-school receives support from the local authority.

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