

Rainbow Preschool

Wickford



Memorial Park, Rettendon View, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8JE

Inspection date 12 March 2015
Previous inspection date 2 October 2009

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

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff create many purposeful learning opportunities to excite and engage children's interest. From their individual starting points all groups of children, including the most able and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning.
- Children are kind, take turns and play harmoniously together. This is because staff take time to build positive relationships, they are caring in their approach and manage children's behaviour well.
- Staff give great importance to involving parents in every aspect of their child's learning. As a result, parents are very supportive and would not hesitate in recommending the pre-school to others.
- Leadership is strong. Management and the committee members are committed to driving forward improvements. The long-serving staff team work well together and value opportunities to attend training to further their knowledge. This means children have a good start to their education and they are well prepared for school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently promote children's language and thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- raise the quality of teaching so staff use questioning more effectively to deepen children's understanding and allow them time to respond after posing a question.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the three rooms of the pre-school and outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, committee and staff.
- The inspector and the manager took part in a joint observation.
- The inspector took the views of the parents into account.
- The inspector looked at children's development records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff, the provider's self-evaluation form and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Sharron Fogarty-Martin

Inspection findings

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

Staff have high expectations of children and have a good understanding of how young children learn. They provide a wide range of activities that motivate and hold children's interest. For instance, children eagerly gather round to listen to a story and join in using props. Older children enjoy a game of matching letters to the sounds they represent. They have ample opportunities to recognise their name and practise early writing. Some children form recognisable letters and are starting to build words. Staff use effective strategies, such as visual timetables and sign language, to support children with communication delay or those who speak English as an additional language. Most staff are skilled at promoting children's language and thinking skills well. For example, they use 'story boxes' to help develop children's imagination and encourage conversation. They also ask questions requiring children to respond with many possible answers. However, these are not consistent strengths in teaching. At times, staff provide children with an answer or solution to a problem without giving them sufficient opportunity to think about their response.

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

Children are happy and confident because staff value the uniqueness of each child and respect them as individuals. Children are cared for in an environment which is safe and secure. Staff are vigilant at all times, ensuring that children play and learn safely. Children also know how to keep themselves safe. They are extremely sensible when doing an activity involving tapping pins into a cork board and like using the magnet to make sure none have fallen on the floor. Children are independent and benefit from being able to play outside when they choose. They delight in the freedom to move around, balance, climb, investigate and explore in the spacious outside area. Staff make excellent use of their woodland surroundings. Children are taught to care for the environment as they get involved in recycling and help to plant trees. They thoroughly enjoyed making bird feeders as part of 'bird watching' week.

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

The leadership is strong. Management has a thorough understanding of their responsibilities. Staff know how to safeguard children. They attend safeguarding training and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child. Equally, robust recruitment procedures ensure the most suitable staff are employed. All recommendations from the previous inspection have been addressed and management consistently review their practice for the benefit of children. Staff meet regularly to discuss the progress of individuals and groups of children, and the manager successfully monitors the educational programmes. Excellent team work and strong leadership, including involvement from committee members, are key features of the pre-school's continued effectiveness.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402297
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	855427
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	Rainbow Preschool Wickford Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 October 2009
Telephone number	01268 768100

Rainbow Preschool Wickford is run by a committee and opened in 1984. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term time. Session times are from 9am until 12 noon and from 1pm until 4pm. Children aged two, three and four years receive funding for early education. The pre-school employs 12 members of staff. Of these, nine hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3.

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