

St Neot & Cardinham Pre-School



St Neot Children's Centre, Loveny Road, St Neot, Liskeard, PL14 6NL

Inspection date 19 March 2015
Previous inspection date 10 May 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

- Strong links with the school result in highly effective partnerships, which fully support children in preparing to move on. Staff promote continuity of learning successfully, helping children make consistently good progress at each stage.
- Staff create an enabling environment for children to explore and learn through play. They skilfully interact to promote children's interest and individual learning. A key strength is staff knowledge and support in children's communication and language development.
- Children behave well because they are actively occupied and stimulated. They enjoy learning and have fun in the pre-school. Staff promote positive social skills and encourage children's independence. Children are confident and happy because staff meet their needs well.
- Robust self-evaluation procedures identify strengths and aspects for further development, for example, to develop areas outdoors for children to explore nature. The staff and committee work well together and show a commitment to improving outcomes for families.
- Effective observation, assessment and planning procedures enable staff to monitor children's good progress closely.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide outdoor activities or resources to promote children's early reading skills and use of books.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend outdoor learning opportunities to further promote children's interest in books and reading.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children in their indoor and outdoor play activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, parents and chairperson.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked required records and documentation.
- The inspector sampled children's development records.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide good support to children throughout the session. They model activities well so children learn through their play. For example, children use plastic trowels to layer wooden bricks and sand with care. Activities link to current topics to reinforce children's learning and understanding. Staff effectively promote children's listening and concentration skills. They follow the same phonic programme as the school, so children are ready for the next phase when they move on to school. Staff keep parents well informed about children's activities and involve them in learning. For instance, they provide a compact disc so parents can help children to learn letter sounds. Parents are welcome at the group to share their expertise with children. For example, in a recent activity, children saw a tractor at pre-school and learned about farming. Overall, the educational programme is good, although there are fewer opportunities outside for children to develop reading skills and use books as part of their play and learning.

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

Children chat happily and play very well together. They learn to share and have positive attitudes towards others. Staff ensure that children make good progress in their social and emotional development. They use visual aids well to reassure children and prepare them for change. For example, children have a special teddy bear and a book of photographs about school. They go on regular visits and use school facilities, so children become familiar with the premises. Staff take part in recognised programmes that promote healthy lifestyles with children and their families. Children understand the daily routines and expectations of behaviour. They respond well to gentle reminders from staff, such as to walk and not run indoors, which keep them safe.

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

Staff provide safe and welcoming premises. They attend relevant training to update their knowledge and improve the provision. For example, they have increased the range of physical activities to promote children's health further. They have improved the variety of snacks and share nutritional advice with parents. The staff and committee review and amend their policies and procedures, to ensure consistently good practice. Staff effectively promote children's well-being and welfare. They protect children with their clear understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures. Robust systems monitor staff suitability and effectiveness. Parents provide positive feedback about their children's progress and commend the care given.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY420034
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	832619
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	St Neot And Cardinham Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2011
Telephone number	01208821179

St Neot and Cardinham Pre-school registered in 2003 and moved to its current premises in 2010. It is managed by a committee and operates from a purpose-built children's centre based at St Neot School. It is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. The pre-school receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff employed to work with the children, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff has Qualified Teacher Status.

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