

Charlbury Railway Children



The Inspectors House, The Old Pill Factory, Forest Road, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3HH

Inspection date	17 March 2015
Previous inspection date	13 July 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

- Children form good relationships with the staff who care for them each day. Staff always meet their individual needs and form strong attachments with them.
- The quality of teaching across the nursery is good and staff receive excellent support from visiting teachers. As a result, children are well motivated, eager to explore and they develop suitably in their learning.
- Staff are very aware of what children need to learn next. They plan activities around children's interests to advance their learning and development, so that they make good progress.
- Children of all ages have plenty of space to play and explore, and staff make thoughtful provision of resources and equipment, both inside and outside, to engage them in their play.
- Staff are well trained in safeguarding and child protection and have a good understanding of how to recognise signs which may give rise to concerns. The owner uses thorough systems when checking that staff are suitable to care for children.
- The nursery's leadership team is pro-active in driving improvement in learning and development by regularly observing and appraising staff practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to develop children's early literacy skills, especially the older or more able children, by extending their knowledge of letters and their sounds.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that staff make the most of all opportunities to develop children's early literacy skills and increase their knowledge of linking letters to their sounds, particularly for the older children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of the teaching and the impact this has on children's learning across the age ranges, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation in the pre-school room with the manager and discussed the outcome.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents with children of differing ages during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, the planning documentation and risk assessment and safety documentation.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held a meeting with the owner which included discussion of future plans for development.

Inspector

Ann Rowe

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan the environment to provide a good range of activities, ensuring all areas of learning are covered. However, at times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend activities. For example, when they write the names of colours they do not sound out the letters to enhance children's early literacy skills. Children are skilfully supported by experienced and knowledgeable staff, while visiting music and sports teachers offer further stimulating opportunities to promote children's development. Staff emphasise the development of personal, social and emotional skills for younger children through group activities. Older children gain useful skills for their future learning and eventual move to school. Staff demonstrate good understanding of how children's speech and language develop. They provide opportunities throughout the day to effectively promote children's communication skills, including those experiencing difficulties. Children enjoy an excellent variety of outdoor experiences that enhance their physical development. Staff are fully aware of what each child needs to tackle next to make progress. Staff provide children with the necessary support to meet their individual needs and ensure that they make good progress.

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

Good key-person arrangements are in place, and this means that staff help children to settle quickly and play in harmony. Easy access to resources helps children to develop their independence. They learn to share toys and interact together, even from the youngest age groups. The environment is safe for children because staff carry out daily checks and have a thorough understanding of safeguarding. Children are encouraged in healthy eating practices and they keep healthy by exercising outdoors regularly. Staff collect 'About Me' information from parents before children start, so they know and meet children's preferences and needs. Parents comment favourably on their children's daily diaries, which provide detailed information about their child's activities, and on the good verbal feedback they receive from their child's key person.

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

The owner has a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities. She leads a dedicated and conscientious team well, and offers effective support to them in their roles. She monitors the strengths and weaknesses of activities and staff practice to determine how to bring about improvements to teaching and outcomes for children. Recommendations from the previous inspection have been fully implemented. Regular appraisals ensure that staff development is ongoing and good practice is shared. The leadership team regularly seeks parental views, through discussions and questionnaires, and uses these and its own evaluations to make improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY289049
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	837548
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	64
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	Leanne Akers
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2009
Telephone number	01608 811099

Charlbury Railway Children opened in 2004. It is a privately owned day nursery which operates from a detached house in Charlbury, Oxfordshire. The day nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round, apart from bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The day nursery supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. There are 18 members of staff working with the children, of whom 14 have recognised childcare qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four.

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