

Thatcham Pre-School

Moorside Youth and Community Centre, Urquhart Road, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 4RE



Inspection date	19 March 2015
Previous inspection date	4 March 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 positive relationships with staff and other children. They demonstrate confidence to explore the environment and play cooperatively.
- Healthy eating practices, and regular outdoor play and exercise, allow children to learn about healthy lifestyles.
- The staff provide children with a broad range of activities that cover all areas of learning and motivate them to learn. Consequently, children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff place a strong focus on helping children develop communication and language skills, through using gestures and reinforcing language. Through meaningful conversations, staff help children to solve problems and think for themselves.
- The committee and management team work well together. They monitor staff practice, identify training needs and take into account parents' views. This helps to maintain good standards and to improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss some opportunities to strengthen children's mathematical skills through routines and play.
- Staff provide limited opportunities to help children strengthen their independent self-care skills at snack time.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's good mathematical knowledge by maximising all opportunities for them to practise their number skills
- provide children with further opportunities to develop their independent self-care skills at snack time by, for example, preparing their own snacks and pouring their own drinks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed children and staff during play.
- The inspector examined a selection of policies, documents and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with parents, staff and children to gain their views.
- The inspector discussed the process for self-evaluation with the provider and manager.

Inspector

Alison Southard

Inspection findings

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

Staff have good knowledge of how children learn and develop. They prepare children well for their eventual move to school. They promote early reading and writing skills effectively with a wide range of activities. For example, children enjoyed looking at books independently and at group times, and staff helped children learn to recognise letters and write their names. This helps them to begin to understand that print conveys meaning. Children seek out staff to join their play. For example, children invited staff to join them as they used their imaginative skills in the role play office that staff had set up for them. Children play cooperatively and form friendships. Staff play games to promote mathematics. However, they miss some opportunities to count with children during routines, and to reinforce numbers during play times. Staff celebrate festivals with children and they learn about diversity and the world around them. Staff observe children at play, assess their progress and share their findings with parents.

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

Staff provide a welcoming environment where children feel safe and secure. They form close relationships with staff. Staff provide children with an abundance of choice. Children happily explore the environment and make good use of the resources available. They select resources independently. However, staff miss some opportunities to help children strengthen their independent self-care skills at snack time, because children do not pour their own drinks or prepare their own snacks. Staff remind children of the need for safety and carry out evacuation drills on a regular basis. They help children to develop their social skills through gentle reminders to use good manners and to share. Consequently, behaviour is good. Staff promote hygiene effectively. Children follow regular routines of hand washing and generally develop their self-care skills well.

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

The committee and management team work well together to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They demonstrate a thorough awareness of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. They carry out risk assessments and follow safe practices to safeguard children in their care. They carry out checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Partnerships with parents are strong. The sharing of information allows parents to become involved in their children's learning. On-going training and supervision for staff helps to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to carry out their roles and responsibilities confidently. Staff monitor children's learning closely and plan for their individual needs. This helps to improve outcomes for children and all children, including those learning English, make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY292708
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	833836
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Thatcham Pre-school Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2009
Telephone number	07831 611145

Thatcham Pre-school registered in 2004 and is situated in Thatcham, Berkshire. The pre-school is open daily in term time, offering the option of sessions or whole days. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children who are aged two, three and four. The pre-school employs eight members of staff, six of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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