

# The BigTop Pre-School

Bedgrove Pavilion, Bedgrove Park, Ambleside, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9TT



<b>Inspection date</b>	25 March 2015
Previous inspection date	6 July 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff ensure daily routines enable children to benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted play, and they use skilful questioning to extend children's learning.
- The manager and the provider share a commitment to providing high-quality care and education. They take time to reflect on their practice and to plan further improvements.
- Staff quickly identify children who may need additional support. They form effective partnerships with other professionals to enable these children to make good progress.
- Staff are good role models. They are respectful and helpful to each other and to the children. As a result, children learn to be these things too.
- Staff understand that children make the best progress when they build mutually supportive relationships with parents. They take active steps to engage all parents in their children's learning, both at home and at pre-school.
- The managers ensure that staff are supported to gain qualifications and further their knowledge through an effective programme of training, supervisions and mentoring.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always fully consider the needs of all children when planning some adult-led activities. As a result, some children become distracted at these times.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and improve some adult-led activities to ensure they capture and maintain all children's interest.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed and spoke to staff, students and children.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector spoke to staff about their understanding of safeguarding, child protection and first aid.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and children's records.

### Inspector

Sarah Holley

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff help children develop their mathematical understanding while exploring sand and water, and encourage them to count plates and cups when laying the table at snack time. Children learn about the natural world when they plant and care for flowers and herbs. Knowledgeable staff ensure there is additional support for individual children who need it and, as a result, any gaps in learning begin to be closed. Staff are enthusiastic and encouraging, and they organise resources well. Consequently, most children are highly involved in their learning for most of the time. On occasions, some activities do not fully meet the needs of the youngest children who can then lose interest. For example, during a whole group walk to the woods. However, as a result of the enthusiasm and encouragement of the staff and the good quality of most planned activities, all children make progress and are well prepared for school or the next stage in their learning.

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

Staff ensure the premises are safe and secure. They check for hazards and follow good hygiene routines when preparing food and drinks. Visitors sign in and are made aware of the pre-school's policies concerning the use of mobile phones. All staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children and know what action to take if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Children learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle because staff provide healthy snacks and daily opportunities to be outside. They ensure children thoroughly wash their hands before eating or after using the toilet. They model and praise good behaviour. As a result, children behave well and their self-esteem grows.

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

The manager and provider fully understand the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They regularly review all that they do and take steps to further improve the already good practice. For example, developing further ways to involve all parents in their children's learning. All staff are supported to gain further qualifications and enhance their skills. They appreciate the opportunities to learn more about how young children develop and to explore new strategies for promoting positive behaviour. More experienced staff act as mentors for new team members and visiting students. Daily meetings help ensure all staff are working together as an effective team. The manager understands the importance of building strong partnerships with other professionals and welcomes other providers and health professionals to visit children at the setting. As a result of the strong partnerships and well-qualified staff, children flourish at the pre-school, enjoying the activities on offer and developing a love of learning that will equip them well in their future endeavours.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY231935
<b>Local authority</b>	Buckinghamshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	842683
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	40
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	71
<b>Name of provider</b>	Sylvia Anne Robinson
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	6 July 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01296 427 861 or 07814 828 088

The Big Top Pre-School registered in 2002. It is open from 9.15am until 2.15pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9.15am until 3pm on Tuesdays, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four. It employs 11 members of staff, 7 of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3.

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