

Occold Pre-School

Village Hall, Jubilee Field, Occold, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7PL



Inspection date	23 March 2015
Previous inspection date	3 December 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

- Staff demonstrate a very good knowledge of how young children learn. They provide a well-planned environment, and opportunities for children to make decisions and become independent. Consequently, children spend long periods at self-chosen activities, learning new skills.
- Children's language development is very well supported. Staff use signing and spoken language, ask open-ended questions and engage in interesting conversations. Children of all abilities are confident communicators and interact with each other to build relationships and share ideas.
- Support for children with special educational needs is very good. Focused meetings help parents, staff and other professionals work together to support children's individual needs effectively.
- The setting is led by a strong manager who acts as a positive role model for the team. Professional development is well supported through regular training and the team work together effectively to provide good care for children.
- Children are kept safe through rigorous recruitment and good induction training for new staff. Staff are well informed and children's well-being is safeguarded effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of practice and analysing children's assessments is not yet embedded enough to inform developments in teaching or maximise children's progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- embed the system for monitoring practice and analysing children's assessments, to promote further developments in teaching and maximise children's progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school and a range of other documents and records, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to parents, and took their views into account.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector spoke to the pre-school manager, members of staff, children and the chair of the committee at appropriate times during the visit.
- The inspector observed activities in the main play area indoors, as well as in the garden.

Inspector

Caroline Wright

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy interesting activities and learn skills for school. They make hot cross buns to help them to recognise numbers using the weighing scales. Staff provide a variety of pebbles for children to encourage them to count and talk about different sizes. Staff promote the characteristics of learning very well, providing children with plenty of opportunity to explore, persevere and become involved. Children show perseverance at snack time, spreading butter on toast and washing up after lunch. As a result, children are confident, independent learners. They use their imagination to create a fox using stones or make a cake in the mud kitchen. Sign language is used throughout so all children participate in activities and communicate with each other. Children's language skills are well supported. Staff ask interesting questions and provide new words, particularly for children who speak English as an additional language. Parents' observations from home inform assessment and next steps for development.

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

Children are well prepared for the next steps in their learning. Their move to school is supported through school visits. Personalised models, made by the children, help them to explore new relationships through imaginative play. Key persons provide very good support for children, promoting confidence. Home visits and sharing information with parents, when children join the pre-school, help children settle quickly and form close relationships with their key person. Children's behaviour is very good. This is because staff use consistent strategies that help children know what is expected of them. They set realistic boundaries and give children lots of opportunities to make decisions, such as where they will play and when they want to eat snack. Children learn about keeping themselves healthy through regular routines. They talk about 'germs' when they wash their hands before cooking hot cross buns and talk with their key person about healthy food at lunchtime.

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

Well-qualified staff have a good knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities. They are well informed about safeguarding and child protection, and regular risk assessments mean children are kept safe. Recruitment and induction procedures are rigorous. New staff are well informed and confident to report concerns. Makaton training has improved practice and led to signing being used as an equal form of communication in the setting. The manager carries out regular meetings, which are used to inform professional development activities and ensure consistency. The monitoring practice and analysing children's assessments is not yet embedded enough to inform developments in teaching or maximise children's progress. This limits staff's ability to revise teaching and sharply focus on weaker areas, if needed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251583
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	866553
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Occold Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2009
Telephone number	07790 605 219 01379678397

Occold Pre-School was registered in 1978. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one has a degree in early years. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 9am until 3.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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