

The Avenue Day Nursery

Unit 5, Warren Courtyard, Savernake, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3UU



Inspection date

30 March 2015

Previous inspection date

9 November 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

- Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They know the children very well and plan a good range of educational programmes that engage and motivate children and meet their individual needs and interests.
- Children settle easily due to the close bonds and secure relationships established with the staff, and they are supported well in their play in a safe and secure environment.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are very well supported through highly effective partnerships with parents and external agencies.
- Children are kept safe from harm because staff understand how to manage risks and protect children's health and safety. Robust recruitment, induction and supervision opportunities ensure that staff provide high levels of good quality support, which benefits the children and ensures that children's welfare is protected.
- Parents take an active part in their child's learning and are kept well informed of the progress their child is making.
- Leaders and staff are enthusiastic and committed to providing good quality provision for children. Improvements made since the last inspection have improved the effectiveness of what staff do, especially for groups of boys and those children with additional needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for children to be challenged further in their early discovery of science and the world around them is limited by the lack of accessible non-fiction books.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a wider selection of reading materials that support children's discovery and critical thinking skills, to enhance further the learning programme for early science and understanding the world around them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and learning throughout the day.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including development records and key policies.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector took account of parents' and children's views through discussions and observations.

Inspector

Melissa Cox

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy prolonged periods of time engaged in self-chosen activities, inside and outside. They are keen to learn and all groups make good progress from their starting points. Children's speaking and listening skills are developing well. Staff use questioning, repetition and commentary very effectively to help children acquire and understand new words. Children have lots of opportunities to be creative and use the role play areas well to recreate first-hand experiences. Children enjoy opportunities to engage in sand play, where they create cakes and learn to share resources with their friends. Staff support children to learn about nature and the world around them, although they do not always provide non-fiction books for children to use as an additional reference to build on this further. Regular exchanges of information about children's achievements and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments ensure children's learning is supported.

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

Children have very positive relationships with staff and enjoy cuddles, praise and consistent reassurance. Staff provide high levels of care and supervision. As a result, children explore their surroundings with confidence and are motivated to try the variety of play experiences available. Children play happily together and behave very well because staff create a calm, positive atmosphere and use specific praise and gentle reminders effectively. As a result, children are happy, make new friends easily and settle well. Staff help children learn to do things for themselves, which develops their confidence and their independence skills. This ensures they are well prepared for their move to school. Children have lots of opportunities to play outdoors to keep themselves fit and healthy. Staff provide exceptional support to children with additional medical or dietary needs.

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

The owner and manager are competent and well informed in their roles. They support the staff team well. Staff keep children safe and know what to do if they have concerns about the welfare of a child in their care. Self-evaluation clearly identifies the nursery's strengths and areas for development are well targeted. The monitoring of children's learning is precise. Children receive effective intervention at the earliest stage, to meet their specific needs. Staff regularly undertake a wide and varied range of training, enhancing the quality of teaching and outcomes for children. Developing outdoor learning for boys has been instrumental in engaging and motivating groups of older children. As a result, all groups of children make equally good progress across their learning. Staff have effective working relationships with other early years provisions, including local schools that children attend.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY349149
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	835245
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	90
Name of provider	The Avenue Day Nursery Partnership
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2011
Telephone number	01672 870790

The Avenue Day Nursery opened in 2007. It operates from rooms within the Warren Courtyard complex at Savernake, near Marlborough, Wiltshire. The nursery is situated in a rural setting and is in the grounds of a working dairy farm. The setting is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm. The nursery employs 23 members of staff. Of these, the majority of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff hold a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in early childhood studies.

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