

The Westlands Nursery

The Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1XN



Inspection date

24 April 2015

Previous inspection date

10 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 offer children a wide range of activities which interest, motivate and challenge them. Therefore, children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff provide a nurturing and calm environment for the youngest children. This helps them to settle in to nursery successfully.
- Children are happy and confident because they have good relationships with staff and their key person.
- Staff build positive relationships with parents. They share their children's progress with them which helps them to support their child's learning at home.
- Staff understand safeguarding procedures well. They have a good knowledge of the wide range of policies and procedures, which help to keep children safe.
- Staff use self-evaluation successfully and show a strong commitment to continuous development. This helps to ensure good outcomes for children.
- Staff effectively prepare children for school by visits and links with the local school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Older children are not always able to make their own choices about when to play outside during the session. This does not fully support children who learn best outside.
- Staff do not fully involve children in the preparation of food at snack time. Therefore, they are not able to prepare foods to promote further their skills of independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- Revise the organisation of the routine for the pre-school age group to enable the children to make choices about when they play outdoors
- enhance the opportunities for independence by allowing children to prepare their own food at snack time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children indoors and outside.
- The inspector observed the routine at snack and lunch time.
- The inspector spoke to individual staff members and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies, procedures and children's observation folders.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

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

Children thoroughly enjoy the good range of activities and resources, which effectively support their learning. For example, younger children explored a selection of materials and textiles, whilst older children planted sunflowers and used large foam shapes to create a house. Staff extend children's vocabulary by adding new words and asking open questions. They provide a running commentary for the youngest children, which helps them to learn new words. Staff encourage children's interest in music. For instance, they looked at how to use the instruments and talked about quietly tapping sounds. Staff skilfully maintained their interest by singing rhymes and songs with actions. This effectively supports children awareness of sounds and rhythm. Staff use observations and assessment successfully to plan for children's next steps in their learning. Children's key persons share summaries with other nursery staff to help children as they move through the nursery rooms. This enhances children's emotional and social development.

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

Staff are good role models and teach children about acceptable behaviour. Therefore children behave well and build positive relationships with each other. Staff plan outdoor play sessions which provide children with fresh air and exercise. Staff work closely with other agencies to support children's individual needs. This helps to ensure that all children make good progress in their learning. Staff teach children about good hygiene practices, and help them to manage their own self-care. This supports children's personal and independence skills effectively. Staff undertake their own risk assessments and there is a named staff member responsible for health and safety. This minimizes risk and helps to keep children safe in the setting.

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

The manager uses the views of staff and parents to support the self-evaluation of the nursery and all previous actions have been completed. For example, a recent change in the assessment process provides clear next steps in children's learning for staff and parents. This and the development of a new tracking system, helps to ensure that all children make consistently good progress. The manager and staff meet termly to review the activities they offer and to ensure that there are opportunities for children to progress in their learning. The manager has robust recruitment and induction processes in place to ensure the suitability of all staff. Regular mentoring and supervision, and ongoing training and development helps to ensure that staff are enthusiastic and well-qualified. This continually improves the learning outcomes of children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426595
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	838851
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	84
Name of provider	Westlands Academies Trust
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2011
Telephone number	01795430629

The nursery is owned by the Swale Academies Trust in Westland Primary School, Sittingbourne and opened in September 2011. The nursery operates from several rooms in the old Infant School, and is open daily from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for two, three and four year old children. The nursery employs 11 staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification.

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