

Brunel-Meredith Pre-School



Brunel Junior School, Wymering Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 7HX

Inspection date

1 May 2015

Previous inspection date

10 November 2008

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

- The manager and staff team are committed to improving their already good quality practice to enhance outcomes for children further.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff identify children's next steps for learning through precise and accurate assessment. As a result, children make good progress in their learning.
- Children form secure attachments with staff. Children develop good social skills and learn to play co-operatively.
- Partnerships with other professionals, and other setting children attend are very strong. Consequently, staff continually meet the care and learning needs of all children.
- Staff have a good understanding of effective safeguarding practice. They attend regular child protection training and are aware of whom to contact should they be concerned about a child's welfare. Staffing ratios and good deployment ensures children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not take all opportunities to enhance literacy development outdoors. They do not consistently create an inviting area for children to read and look at books. This means staff do not encourage children to look at books independently.
- There are limited opportunities for children to see words and symbols in their home language as they play, to support even further their language and communication development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills outside, for example by creating a more inviting book area
- provide opportunities for children to use their home language within their play and learning to encourage language and communication even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took part in a joint observation and had a tour of the pre-school with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the deputy manager and manager.
- The inspector talked with some children, staff and parents, and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed children and staff engaged in activities
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including some policies and procedures, risk assessments and records for children and staff.

Inspector

Jane Franks

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They spend time getting to know the children and gain information about their individual routines and achievements from parents. Staff maintain good relationships to ensure that parents are consistently involved in their child's progress. Generally, staff encourage children's developing literacy skills. Indoors, children enjoy listening to stories in the cosy book corner. Staff promote children's mathematical development during activities and daily routines. For example, children jump over stepping-stones outside and learn to identify shapes and recognise numbers. This means children learn the skills they need for the next stage in their learning. Overall, staff promote children's language and communication well. They use visual aids to support children with English as an additional language, and encourage discussion as children play. Children learn to think about similarities and differences as they draw pictures of their families.

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

Children are confident in their environment. They have good opportunities to make independent choices from the wide variety of resources available. Staff are consistent in how they manage children's behaviour. For example, children use sand timers to help them learn to share and take turns. As a result, children learn to manage their feelings and behave well. Staff develop children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Children benefit from regular fresh air, exercise during outdoor play, and staff offer a range of nutritious healthy snacks. Children learn how to keep themselves safe. They take part in regular fire drills and learn how to use tools, such as scissors, safely. Children learn about the world they live in through outings in the local community, such as visits to the local shops.

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

The management committee has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It works closely with the manager and staff team to evaluate the provision. The manager supports the staff well through regular supervision and team meetings. Consequently, she has an accurate view of the quality of teaching and the positive impact it has on children's progress. Following recent training, the staff team has changed the environment to enhance support for the learning needs of the vulnerable two-year-old children. The manager monitors the educational programmes. As a result, the staff team quickly identifies any gaps emerging in children's learning and implements effective targets to drive improvement. Staff make good use of well-established links with local schools to help children make a smooth move into full-time education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143441
Local authority	Portsmouth
Inspection number	841600
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Brunel-Meredith Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2008
Telephone number	02392652745

Brunel-Meredith Pre-School was established over 25 years ago. The pre-school is an amalgamation of two pre-schools and operates in the upstairs of an annexe leased from Meredith Infant School. It has charity status and is organised by a voluntary parents' management committee. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12pm during the school term. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old. Twelve staff work directly with the children, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications.

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