

Barnton Pre-School

Barnton Primary School, Townfield Lane, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4QL



Inspection date

29 April 2015

Previous inspection date

12 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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		Outstanding	1
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

- Children's emotional well-being is being fostered successfully because the key person works closely with parents and other professionals. This joint working also helps to ensure that extra support is sought for families and their children, when needed.
- Staff's understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements is extremely secure. Safe practice is firmly followed and children play in a safe, welcoming and supportive environment.
- Children are extremely happy and settled and their behaviour is exemplary. This is because staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping all children form strong, trusting and secure emotional attachments.
- The well-qualified staff provide all children with stimulating play areas and a wide range of play resources, both indoors and outdoors. This encourages children to enjoy the fun of exploration and investigation.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the progress of the two-year-old children is not monitored precisely enough.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the monitoring of the two-year-old children to quickly identify where they may need extra support.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the manager of the pre-school.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities in the indoor and outdoor areas and spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and her improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records and information and spoke to their key persons.

Inspector

Ron Goldsmith

Inspection findings

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

Children are confident and happy. They make good use of the environment, which helps them to explore and make choices about what they want to do. Staff track children's progress to assess their development. However, occasionally, the monitoring of the two-year-old children is not always precise enough to quickly identify where they may need extra support, to help them make the best possible progress. Children imaginatively play in the home corner or dress as super heroes. The youngest children explore the outdoor environment with a magnifying glass. They listen intently during story time and they are encouraged to recall aspects of stories during craft activities. For example, when painting and counting, children talk about a favourite caterpillar. This shows that children are active and motivated learners. Younger children develop their writing skills as they use water and brushes to make marks outdoors. They relish these fun learning opportunities and, consequently, make good progress in all areas of their learning and development. Staff allow children time to consider, and respond to, questions. This motivates children's thinking and promotes their communication and language skills.

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

Children are confident, well motivated and eager to join in the interesting and challenging learning experiences. They thrive in the highly stimulating environment. A strong feature of the setting is the excellent outdoor area. Children spend long periods of time outdoors, in the pre-school's own outside area, as they visit animals kept on the school grounds and as they enjoy Forest School learning. They enjoy physical activities, such as climbing and sliding on the outdoor equipment and riding tricycles. Children learn about planting and growing as they plant seeds and discuss how long they will take to grow. They are successfully learning about self-care and personal hygiene through consistent routines and staff support. They become independent as they learn how to serve themselves at snack time. This helps them learn to make their own choices.

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

The pre-school staff have a secure understanding of their responsibilities. Since the previous inspection, management has improved support for staff through supervision sessions, appraisals and regular training. There is a range of policies and procedures, which staff implement effectively to support children's health, safety and well-being. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection. They know the procedures to follow if there are concerns about a child in their care. Consequently, children are safeguarded well. A commitment to ongoing training ensures the pre-school can continue to meet statutory obligations and develop skills which support practice. Staff work well with the host school that almost all of the children will attend. Relevant information is exchanged to support the move that children will make. Staff also have extremely strong relationships with parents, and parents are encouraged to share information about their children to ensure continuity of care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402528
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	991272
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	67
Name of provider	Barnton Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 September 2014
Telephone number	01606 74963

Barnton Pre-School was registered in 2001. It is managed by a voluntary committee and operates from the grounds of Barnton Primary school in Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire. The pre-school opens five days a week, from 8.45am until 3.30pm, term time only. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are currently 14 staff working directly with the children. Of these, 11 staff hold appropriate qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2.

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