

Swimbridge Pre School

The Old School Room, Watergate, Swimbridge, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 0PR



Inspection date

20 May 2015

Previous inspection date

3 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 use good-quality teaching and provide varied learning opportunities for children. Children make independent choices in their play and staff enhance their knowledge and skills by following children's interests.
- Staff undertake observations of children as they play and they work together to monitor children's progress. This ensures that staff plan for any gaps in learning to support children to make good progress. As a result, staff prepare children for the next stage in their learning, such as school.
- Staff safeguard children well because the pre-school has effective policies and procedures in place. All staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe.
- The pre-school values the roles of parents and has effective partnerships in place with parents, other settings and the local school. This ensures children benefit from a consistent approach to their care and learning.
- The staff team is well qualified and all members of staff have worked at the pre-school for a number of years, which has a positive impact on children's care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Activities offered on the computer do not always enable children to complete them independently without staff support.
- Children do not always have the opportunity to compare and describe shapes in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's skills with activities involving information and communication technology so that they can complete tasks independently and without support
- encourage children to develop their mathematical skills further, for example, by providing more opportunities for children to compare and discuss shapes in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector spoke with staff and the supervisors.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies, qualification certificates and children's learning journeys.
- The inspector reviewed the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through questionnaires and discussions on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

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

Staff are skilled practitioners who are confident in their teaching. Staff give high priority to promoting children's development in language and literacy. They constantly engage children in conversation as they play, and encourage them to answer questions, such as how much food colouring to add to the water to turn it orange. This means children become confident communicators. Children enjoy being able to use the computer to make pictures. However, at times, they become frustrated as they need support from staff to use the mouse or understand what to do to continue the program. Staff support older children's mathematical skills well as they encourage them to use numbers during the session. However, occasionally, they miss opportunities to extend these skills further by discussing shapes with children in their play.

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

Children form secure attachments with staff as there is an effective key-person system in place. As a result, children are confident, settled, keen to explore and learn. Their well-being is supported well by staff. Children use their imaginations as they play in the home corner. Staff manage children's moves between home, pre-school and school well. Children enjoy trips and outings to places of interest, such as the local garden centre, learning about the world around them. They learn how to keep healthy during hand washing times and discussing healthy eating at snack times. Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour. Staff give children reassurance and lots of praise. This effectively develops children's confidence and self-esteem. Children take part in group activities where staff promote their social skills, encouraging them to take turns and share.

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

Staff have a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Effective self-evaluation means that the staff continually improve the good service for children and their families. The supervisors analyse learning and development trackers to identify if there are any areas where children need support and to ensure that they continue to make good progress. Parents are actively involved in the pre-school as they receive daily verbal communication and regular newsletters to inform them of current projects and activities as well as to gain their feedback. An established system of frequent supervisions and staff meetings ensures staff are valued and supported. Staff are encouraged to develop their professional skills by attending training and this has a positive impact on children's learning. For example, group times are now shorter so children, particularly boys, stay engaged.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106381
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	835753
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	Swimbridge Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 November 2011
Telephone number	01271 830357

Swimbridge Pre-School registered in 1993 and is located in the village of Swimbridge, near Barnstaple, Devon. The setting operates from 9am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday, term time only. The setting receives funding for three- and four-year-old children. The setting employs three members of staff to work with children, all of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications to at least level 3. The setting also employs an administrator and a cleaner.

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