

Wheatley Pre-School

The Playgroup Room, Wheatley Primary School, Littleworth Road, OXFORD, OX33 1NW



Inspection date

24 June 2015

Previous inspection date

15 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Good	4 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Inadequate	4
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The nominated person has not implemented effective recruitment procedures to ensure that suitability checks and induction are carried out for the new manager. Therefore, children's safety is not fully promoted.
- The nominated person has not notified Ofsted of changes to the pre-school as required, relating to the recruitment of the new manager and a change in opening hours.
- Staff do not receive regular supervision to identify training needs and to address any weakness in practice. The quality of teaching is inconsistent and poor at times.
- Staff do not consistently assess children's progress. This means they do not use information about children to plan meaningful activities, which are appropriate for children's ages and stages of development.
- Staff fail to manage children's behaviour appropriately, particularly the behaviour of the younger children. Therefore, some children do not understand the boundaries and expectations for behaviour in the pre-school.
- Staff miss opportunities to extend children's independence skills.

It has the following strengths

- Children access a variety of activities that they enjoy.
- The new manager has implemented positive changes in a very short time. She demonstrates a suitable capacity to make improvements in the pre-school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- make regular observations to accurately assess where children are in their learning and use this information to plan activities that reflect children's interests and build on what they already know and can do
- ensure suitable arrangements are in place for staff recruitment, including suitability checks and induction procedures, to help them understand their roles and responsibilities
- ensure staff supervision and monitoring of practices are used to raise the quality of teaching and identify training needs, to improve children's learning experiences
- ensure staff manage children's behaviour appropriately and in a consistent manner to promote children's safety and well-being.

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

- encourage children's independence skills, in particular during mealtimes, so they learn to manage their personal care needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at free play and in group times, and staff interactions with them.
- The inspector sampled documents including policies, registers and records of children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and manager conducted a joint observation.

Inspector

Natasha Crellin

Inspection findings

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

Children do not make consistently good progress as the quality of teaching is frequently poor. Staff do not ensure planning reflects observations made on children. Activities on offer provide limited challenge or interest to the children. In addition, staff do not monitor children's learning. Therefore, it is difficult to identify children's current learning needs in order to close gaps in their learning. Staff deploy themselves appropriately throughout the pre-school, ensuring children are safe as they explore and play. Children enjoy mixing mud pies and making 'potions' in the mud kitchen outdoors, developing their curiosity of the natural world. Some staff support children's language by asking suitable questions and encouraging them to answer in full sentences. This also increases their thinking skills.

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

Staff do not use consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. They do not notice children having disagreements until the problem escalates into a physical argument. This has a negative impact on children's safety and emotional well-being. Despite this, staff generally have secure relationships with the children and adequately support their needs. Parents report their children settle quickly when they start and form close friendships. Children learn about hygienic practices and wash their hands before eating. They enjoy healthy snacks prepared in the pre-school. Children gain some independence skills but staff do not make the most of opportunities during play to promote their independence further. Staff make suitable arrangements for children to visit their future school and children enjoy drawing pictures about their visit. Partnerships between parents and external agencies, such as speech therapists, help contribute to meeting children's needs.

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

The nominated person has not informed Ofsted of changes to the manager and opening times. This is a breach of requirements. Furthermore, he does not use robust recruitment procedures. He has not initiated a new Disclosure and Barring Service check for the manager, as required. The manager makes sure she is not left unsupervised with children because she recognises the need to protect children from adults who are not suitably vetted. Staff have an adequate understanding of safeguarding matters and how to protect children. They understand the procedures for reporting any welfare concerns. The new manager has brought about rapid changes in a short amount of time. She has quickly identified the pre-school strengths and areas for development. Staff have received very little support through supervision to help develop their practice and identify training needs. This has an impact on the quality of teaching. However, the new manager and the staff demonstrate an appropriate commitment to drive forward improvement in the pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	134328
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	841060
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Wheatley Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	01865 873687

Wheatley Pre-School registered in 1965. The pre-school is open weekdays during term time only, from 9am until 3.30pm. The pre-school is located in Wheatley, in Oxfordshire. The provider is in receipt of funding for early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs seven members of staff. Of these, four hold early years qualifications.

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