

Our Lady's Pre-School

Henshaw Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2BE



Inspection date

15 June 2015

Previous inspection date

23 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		Requires improvement	3
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Ofsted has not been notified of changes to members of the committee. This compromises the effective management of the pre-school.
- Staff do not always extend and develop older, more able children's physical skills during outdoor play, and opportunities to support children to learn from and interact with computer software are not always sufficiently maximised.
- Management procedures to mentor and support staff are not always fully effective in enabling them to continue to develop and extend their current good practice.

It has the following strengths

- Staff become actively involved in the children's play by interacting and encouraging their learning. They build supportive relationships and ask probing questions, which encourages children to think and explain. As a result, children make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Children are happy, settled and demonstrate that they feel safe and emotionally secure. As a result, children confidently move between the indoor and outdoor environments and independently select their desired activities.
- Staff develop effective partnerships with parents and other settings that care for the children, including the school. This means there is a consistent approach to children's emotional well-being and their learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the programme for physical development, for example, by providing obstacle courses which challenge and refine children's existing skills
- maximise opportunities to support the learning and development of children who choose to access software on computer tablets
- strengthen coaching procedures to provide a greater focus on the quality of teaching in order to support staff to continue to extend their existing good skills and knowledge.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector held meetings with the nominated representative of the committee and the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children and the staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children and discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Ann Austen

Inspection findings

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

Children are developing the skills they need to be ready for the next stage of their learning. Staff encourage children, who are playing in the builder's yard to draw pictures of their proposed plans. As a result, children eagerly make marks on paper to represent their ideas. Furthermore, children develop their problem-solving skills because staff give them time to work out how to position the large wooden blocks and tyres to ensure they balance. Staff provide opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language and successfully introduce new vocabulary during their play. Children enthusiastically immerse their hands in paint and create collage pictures using a wide variety of materials. They develop their hand-to-eye coordination skills as they learn to cut with scissors and pour sand from one container to another. Children access age-appropriate software on computer tablets. However, staff do always use this technology to support children's learning or monitor the length of time children spend on these devices. This minimises learning opportunities and other children's participation.

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

Staff implement an effective key-person system and actively seek all relevant information from parents about each child's needs and stage of development on entry. They act as positive role models and effectively support children to manage their own feelings and behaviour, and to share and take their turn. Consequently, children are polite and behave well. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. Snack and mealtimes are successfully used to promote the children's social development, their sense of responsibility and self-care skills. Children learn about the importance of healthy exercise. They eagerly run, learn to balance and manoeuvre wheeled toys. However, older, more able children, who are already competent in these skills, are not always provided with more challenging activities to extend their physical capabilities and skills. As a result, children's enjoyment in their energetic play is not always sustained.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Management and accountability arrangements are not secure. This is because Ofsted has not been correctly informed of changes to the committee. Procedures to recruit and induct new members of staff are appropriate. All members of staff hold suitable qualifications and Disclosure and Barring Service checks are completed. Arrangements for self-evaluation and performance management are in place. However, current procedures are not always successfully focused on continuing to raise the already good quality of teaching to an even higher standard. Despite this, children are being cared for by staff who are effective in their role and support them to make good progress in their learning and development. Staff maintain a safe and secure environment and understand their responsibilities in protecting children from harm.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220265
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	864232
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Our Lady's Pre-School Wellingborough Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2010
Telephone number	0780 7938154

Our Lady's Pre-School was registered in 1999. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school operates during term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 11.45am and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. An optional lunch club operates from 11.45am until 12.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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