

Orchard Pre-School

St Andrews Church Hall, Beaulieu Road ,Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, Hampshire,
SO45 4PT



Inspection date	23 June 2015
Previous inspection date	19 May 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The pre-school environment is rich in innovative learning opportunities because the staff have extensive knowledge and teaching is excellent. They have high expectations of children's capabilities and offer a superb level of challenge.
- Children are extremely independent and guide their own learning, which prepares them well for their future move to school. They flourish because they are given opportunities to explore and be creative.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are extremely secure, resulting in coordinated shared learning between home, other providers and the pre-school. Parents are very actively involved in their children's learning through the consistent and effective sharing of information.
- Leadership is inspirational. Highly successful self-evaluation provides an accurate picture of areas for improvement and managers take prompt action to address these.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the opportunities for children to explore writing materials outdoors to more fully promote literacy for those who learn best outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children during a range of activities.
- The inspector sampled documents, including policies and records of children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector and manager conducted a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke with the deputy manager, a committee member, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Helen Harper

Inspection findings

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

Staff are dynamic and have extremely secure knowledge of how children learn. Learning opportunities are highly stimulating and exciting. For example, staff encourage children to predict which items will float and sink in water. Children are highly enthused about learning to count and recognise numbers because they participate in fun activities that lay the foundations for these skills. For example, children use chalk to write the date at registration time. They also use household items in the outdoor area to enhance their mathematical development by matching numbers on spoons and threading the correct amount of curtain rings. Staff are meticulous in following children's ideas to extend their learning. Children create cakes from dough and decorate these with candles and gems that are provided for them. Staff discuss birthdays, take a photograph of children's creations and share the images with them. Literacy skills are enhanced indoors as children write their own names and staff discuss letters and sounds; however, this is not always extended to the outdoor area.

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

There is a highly positive atmosphere in the pre-school as children and staff interact enthusiastically together. Children behave well because staff are proactive and create a stimulating learning environment. Children listen with anticipation to the outcome in stories and rhymes. They are independent and make choices. Staff use carefully managed risks as a learning opportunity. For example, when exploring the pre-school room for metal objects with magnets, children discovered a screw was loose on an easel and staff supported them to use a screwdriver to tighten it up. Children enjoy a healthy snack and enjoy physical activities indoors and outside. All staff, and the committee, have attended safeguarding training and know what to do if they have a concern about the welfare of any child. Staff make good use of local resources to promote children's learning, such as visiting a farm and the local wildlife area for pond dipping. Parents contribute to their children's learning in many ways. For example, they collected vouchers to purchase caterpillars, meaning that children could learn about lifecycles.

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

Staff give exceptional consideration through constant assessment of children's progress. The manager is extremely evaluative and strives for high standards. Staff are all involved in evaluating their practice and set clear targets for development. This means high standards are maintained at all times. The whole staff team has high expectations of themselves and of the children. The pre-school is a hive of active learners, creative thinkers and those who play and explore. Staff have many opportunities to grow as professionals through a rolling programme of training that is in place.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109719
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	839626
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Orchard Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	19 May 2010
Telephone number	07922561570

Orchard Pre-School registered in 1985. It is located in Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, Hampshire. Sessions are from 9am to 12 noon and from 12.45pm to 3.45pm, five days a week during term time. The pre-school employs seven staff; of whom, two hold Early Years Professional Status and three hold relevant qualifications at level 3.

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