

Marcham Pre-School Playgroup



Marcham C of E School, Morland Road, Marcham, ABINGDON, Oxfordshire, OX13 6PY

Inspection date

23 June 2015

Previous inspection date

12 March 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 provide a wide range of resources, which help all children to make good progress in all areas of learning, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities or who speak English as an additional language.
- The partnerships with parents are strong. Staff consistently seek the views of parents and engage them in their child's learning.
- Staff promote children's healthy lifestyles well. They provide plenty of access to outside, where children get plenty of fresh air and exercise. They provide nutritious snacks and drinks for children.
- The manager and staff form strong links with the Reception teacher of the onsite school and with other local schools. This helps them to share information regularly and use regular visits to help to prepare children for their move to school.
- The manager consistently monitors the educational programme to help to ensure that planning and assessments of children are precise and accurately support each child's next steps in learning.
- The staff team is well established and staff work closely together to create a calm and welcoming environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always offer a wide range of activities to extend all children's mathematical thinking and skills fully.
- At times, children's preferred play is interrupted or delayed by staff, which leads to children becoming less engaged or waiting to take part in activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff skills and knowledge, to develop further children's mathematical concepts
- increase the opportunities for children to express and follow their own preferences in play so that they remain engaged at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the children, staff and the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, policies and procedures, and learning and development documents.

Inspector

Helen Harnew

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff provide interesting resources and equipment that offer challenges to help children extend their learning and development. For example, children learn how to balance as they carefully step across logs. This helps them begin to coordinate their bodies. Staff offer children plenty of chances to begin to use and learn about technology in their play. Staff have high expectations for children and observe their play consistently to plan environments, which help to extend their learning. This helps them to identify and support any gaps in learning promptly. Parents speak highly of events that staff plan, such as sports days, and say that they feel well informed about their child's progress. Parents and grandparents attend some sessions, which helps to build strong consistency in their learning between the home and pre-school.

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

The key-person system is well established. Children arrive and explore the pre-school environments securely and with confidence. Staff use lots of language with children and constantly praise their positive behaviour and achievements. This helps to boost children's self-esteem and understanding of what is expected of them. Children play cooperatively together and behave very well, with little adult intervention. Staff teach children about keeping themselves safe; by holding scissors correctly, for example. They help children to begin to develop their independence as they encourage them to wash their own hands after outdoor play. Staff and the onsite Reception class teacher share the outdoor area and plan some activities together. This strong relationship helps to smooth the move between the settings and to prepare the children well emotionally.

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

The leadership and management of the pre-school are good. The manager follows robust recruitment and vetting procedures to check that staff are suitable to work with children. She introduces any new staff to the policies and procedures of the pre-school in a very thorough way. She provides training for staff to help to ensure that they are aware of how to identify signs of abuse and who to contact if they have a concern about a child's welfare. This all helps staff to understand their roles and responsibilities and helps to keep children safe. The manager uses supervision meetings effectively to monitor staff performance. She encourages staff to continue their professional development through higher qualifications, to help to improve outcomes for children. The manager seeks the views of parents, children and staff to plan future improvements to the provision effectively. She welcomes other professionals into the setting to share information and practice. This helps to improve outcomes for all children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364409
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	827798
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Marcham Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 March 2012
Telephone number	07749 245313

Marcham Pre-School Playgroup registered in 1968 and runs from Marcham Church of England School, near Abingdon. It is open each weekday between 9am to 3pm, during term-times only. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old. There are six members of staff employed by the pre-school. Of these, five have childcare qualifications between level 2 and 6. The manager has a degree in early years.

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