

Whitemoor Pre-School

Whitemoor Cp School, Whitemoor, ST. AUSTELL, Cornwall, PL26 7XQ



Inspection date

30 June 2015

Previous inspection date

2 October 2009

| 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 prepare children well for school and have positive partnerships with other settings children attend. This helps them to provide effective support to children.
- Skilful planning and use of resources means that staff effectively promote children's interests and learning. Staff create a variety of role play areas to inspire children's imaginations and promote all areas of development. This means children enjoy their activities and make good progress from their starting points.
- There is a consistent staff team with an effective key-person system. Staff work closely with parents to meet children's care needs. Consequently, children settle well and form secure relationships, which support their emotional and social well-being.
- Staff are enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoy their work. They show a commitment to continuous improvements through robust self-evaluation. The staff and committee have clear plans for future development, to benefit the children.
- Rigorous vetting, recruitment, induction and staff supervision procedures monitor staff suitability well, to help keep children safe and ensure very good quality care. Staff attend relevant courses to update and develop their childcare knowledge. Therefore, they are confident in their delivery of the educational programmes and in meeting children's needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff deployment is not always effective at tuck time, to engage children and promote their continued learning.
- Staff do not extend the opportunities to involve parents further in children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the deployment of staff and organisation at tuck time, to better support children's engagement and learning
- increase the frequency of activities that promote shared learning at home, and provide more information to parents about the purpose, to extend support to children's development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, chairperson and parents.
- The inspector observed staff and children in their indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector sampled children's records of development.
- The inspector took account of the self-evaluation form and undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked specific records and documentation.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan and provide a good range of activities successfully that help children develop key learning skills. For example, children listen well and take part at registration time. They enjoy singing sessions and story times, which promote their language and literacy development well. Children have fun and explore with interest. They make independent choices, such as where they want to play and what they would like to take outside. Effective observation, assessment and planning procedures help staff set clear targets for individual children by monitoring and addressing any gaps in children's progress. They share information with parents about children's progress and activities. Families particularly like the video clips, which staff upload to a secure webpage. Children borrow specific resources on a rota basis each half term and staff suggest ideas for holiday activities. This helps to involve parents, although staff do not extend the information to help parents understand the learning objectives.

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

Staff are conscientious about children's health and welfare. They skilfully use play to help children understand about being safe. For example, in role play, staff remind children to put on their seat belts in the pretend car. Children play with 'summer bear' and learn about sun safety. Therefore, children know that they need to wear sunhats and sun cream in warm weather. Children behave well overall and staff use effective methods to manage occasional upsets or minor disruptions. Staff promote positive behaviour with warm encouragement and guidance. Children benefit from frequent outdoor play sessions and play with exuberance. For instance, a group of boys enjoy running around dressed in superhero costumes. Other children busily chalk and staff help them with letters and numbers. Children plant and grow fruit and vegetables with staff, which helps them to understand about healthy foods.

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

The pre-school has had a replacement unit since the last inspection with improved facilities. External canopies have increased the opportunities for children to play outside, to address the recommendation from the last inspection. The manager and staff work well together to identify strengths and training needs effectively. Experienced staff are good role models to newer staff, which promotes their professional development. Overall, staff provide good support and supervision to children, although this can vary during preparations for tuck time. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of the procedures to safeguard children and protect their welfare.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 102968 |
| Local authority | Cornwall |
| Inspection number | 824717 |
| Type of provision | Sessional provision |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 2 - 8 |
| Total number of places | 20 |
| Number of children on roll | 23 |
| Name of provider | Whitemoor Pre-School Playgroup Committee |
| Date of previous inspection | 2 October 2009 |
| Telephone number | 01726 822274 |

Whitemoor Pre-School opened in 1991 and is a committee-run group. It operates from a separate unit in the grounds of Whitemoor Academy in St Austell, Cornwall. The pre-school is open each weekday during term times only from 9am until 12pm. They offer a lunch club facility until 12.55pm on a Tuesday and Wednesday. The pre-school receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years old. There are four members of staff employed to work with the children, all of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 3.

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