

Northern Pre-School

Northern County Junior & Infant School, Richmond Rise, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 8DG



Inspection date

2 July 2015

Previous inspection date

8 November 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff warmly welcome children into the pre-school. Strong key-person relationships are effective, making children feel secure. Children excitedly share their home news and staff celebrate home learning. This raises children's self-esteem.
- The outdoor environment provides a stimulating and exciting space for children. Children enthusiastically and actively play, explore and learn outdoors. Children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff have a well-developed partnership with the local school. Staff are supportive to children and their parents, helping to smooth children's move to school.
- Staff training has a positive impact on the quality of care and education in the pre-school.
- The manager has clear plans for developments and improvements. Regular reflection and evaluation ensure any changes are positive for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not provide a wide range of accessible resources in all areas of the environment to fully encourage children's self-confidence and independence.
- Staff do not use all opportunities to encourage children to look at books independently to promote further their imaginations and early reading skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of the learning environments to ensure all children can freely access self-chosen resources to enhance their self-confidence and independence
- extend children's interest in print to promote further their imaginations and early reading skills, for example, by displaying books attractively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff's interactions with children, and spoke with them at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector viewed all areas used by the pre-school with the manager, and discussed future developments.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager, and then met to discuss leadership and management.
- The inspector spoke to parents, sampled parents' questionnaires and took note of their views.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including children's records, staff records and self-evaluation.

Inspector

Emma Dean

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 across the pre-school is good, with some outstanding practice. Exciting activities engage the children. For example, a weaving activity with shiny paper promoted lots of interest. Staff encouraged children to choose their own paper. Children enjoyed the process of weaving, completing several frames. This promotes children's physical development, as well as their creative skills. Staff use signs to support their communication and interaction with children. Staff support children as they sing action songs and enjoy learning new rhymes. This promotes children's communication and language development. Staff use regular assessments of children's learning to identify any gaps. Staff quickly address gaps and seek additional support from other professionals as necessary to promote children's learning. As a result, children gain essential skills and are well prepared for their move on to school.

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

Children demonstrate that they feel safe and are eager to learn. Their behaviour is good. Staff are consistently good role models, promoting good manners and teaching children to take turns and cooperate, for example, during a game of football. Staff teach children to stay safe and to manage their personal hygiene routines, such as handwashing. Staff encourage children to develop their listening skills, for example, as they discuss the noise of the hand dryers. Children enjoy healthy snacks and being physically active while playing outside, which promotes their good health. Parents feel involved in their children's learning. Staff arrange home visits before a child starts to build strong partnerships with parents from the outset. Parents enjoy the suggestions that staff offer to support their children's learning at home.

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

The manager is committed to improving the quality of the provision and has addressed all recommendations from the last inspection. The manager regularly seeks parents' views and uses these in the self-evaluation process to help develop plans for the future. The manager carefully reviews children's progress across all areas of learning and development. Robust staff recruitment and ongoing supervision ensure that staff are suitable and effective for their roles. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and of how to keep children safe. Staff engage in training and are committed to improving children's outcomes. For example, recent training on engaging children in early writing activities has led to the introduction of a wider variety of resources and changes in the learning environment. This has increased children's interest and enjoyment in practising their early writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507933
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	842259
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	76
Name of provider	Northern Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 November 2010
Telephone number	023 92385613

Northern Pre-School registered in 1994. It is situated in Northern County Infants School, in Portchester, Hampshire. The pre-school is open from 8am to 4pm during school term times. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two-, three- and four-years. The pre-school employs six members of staff, five of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above. Of these, one holds a qualification at level 7 and one holds Qualified Teacher Status.

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