

Westwood Nursery

University of Bath, The Avenue, Claverton Down, BATH, BA2 7AY



Inspection date

31 July 2015

Previous inspection date

20 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 management seeks excellence in all aspects of nursery practice. They use highly successful systems to evaluate their provision, including the views of staff, parents and children. They continually make improvements and have an excellent drive to provide the highest possible outcomes for children.
- Staff provide an extremely stimulating curriculum, which motivates children to want to take part, practise new skills and learn through self-discovery. Children have strong inquisitive minds and work out solutions to problems through trial and error. Even young babies try different ways of achieving, for example, to get into the sandpit.
- The highly successful key-person system provides an extremely secure base for babies and children to explore the environment. Staff get to know children and their families exceptionally well. This means that children feel valued and staff have an outstanding knowledge of how to meet their physical and emotional needs.
- Children make outstanding progress in their key areas of development. They are highly confident and independent learners. This prepares them extremely well for their next stage of learning and eventual move to school.
- Children learn in an excellent environment, both indoors and outdoors, with accessible resources. This enables them to initiate their learning, extend their ideas and make links to continue their thinking over a long time.
- The enthusiastic, qualified staff team continues to update and expand their knowledge through training and research. The management team provides excellent supervision and support. As a result, they reflect on their already outstanding teaching to implement new ideas and even better ways of working.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's strong mathematical development even further by using all opportunities to challenge older children in comparing numbers.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents present on the day of inspection, and took account of the provider's self-evaluations and parents' survey.
- The inspector held a meeting with the special educational needs coordinator and the manager, and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and staff planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an excellent knowledge of children's starting points and abilities through accurate observations and regular discussions with parents. This helps them to plan successfully according to children's individual learning needs and interests. Through skilful observation, staff know when to provide support and when not to interrupt children's thinking and learning. Consequently, children make excellent progress overall. For example, at the inspection, children enjoyed predicting, finding out which items would float or sink, and what happened when putting water in hollow items. However, staff missed an opportunity to challenge the older children in comparing the different groups. Staff use excellent systems to support all children in their language and communication skills. They encourage children of all ages to become as independent as possible, giving them responsibility for age-appropriate tasks.

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

Children develop outstanding practices for a safe and healthy lifestyle because staff provide excellent role models. They support older children in assessing risks in activities as well as discussing healthy foods and the effect they have on our bodies. Staff give partnerships with parents high priority. They recognise the importance and share extensive information. During home visits, staff get to know children really well before they start at the nursery. This helps children to develop secure emotional attachments and, therefore, settle quickly. Staff are currently undertaking a project on children's well-being and involvement. This helps them understand how children's emotional needs underpin their learning. Staff encourage children to take pride in their own achievements and also in those of their friends. They give children time to think and appropriately express their own wants and needs. As a result, children's behaviour is exemplary.

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

The management team has a thorough knowledge of their responsibilities and, through rigorous recruitment and supervision, ensure that their staff do too. All staff attend safeguarding training and know what to do should a child be at risk of harm. Following the last inspection, the management has built up their networking partnerships with other early years providers. Staff share information to have a consistent approach to children's welfare and development. In addition, they provide outstanding support in helping children in their move to school, particularly those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are excellent systems to monitor children's development and identify any gaps in their learning. Staff provide highly effective support for those children learning English as an additional language. This ensures that all children reach their potential.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133105
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	825548
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	University of Bath
Date of previous inspection	20 September 2011
Telephone number	01225 386518

Westwood Nursery opened in 1970. It operates from Bath University, Claverton Down, Bath. The nursery serves both the campus and the local area. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four-years-old. The nursery is open every weekday from 8.30am until 5.30pm, and operates for 48 weeks of the year. The nursery employs 21 childcare staff. Of these, three hold Early Years Professional Status and one holds a teaching qualification. One member of staff holds an early years qualification at level 5 and 16 hold qualifications at level 3. One member of staff is working towards an early years qualification at level 2. An administrator supports the staff.

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