

Ancaster Pre-School

The Parish Hall, Ancaster, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 3PW



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

23 September 2015

18 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Strong leadership secures continuous improvement and impressive progress in children's development relative to their starting points, especially in the areas of communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.
- Staff members carry out accurate assessments and constantly reassess their interactions to meet the specific interests and needs of individual children. This ensures children make rapid progress.
- The committee and staff team have high expectations. Staff provide children with clear guidelines of acceptable behaviour. Therefore, children confidently self-regulate their behaviour and willingly support one another.
- Children are highly motivated to learn as a result of their secure attachments with staff members.
- Parents are very positive about the pre-school. They are kept informed about the progress of their children and are given information and ideas to support learning within the home. This highly effective partnership working contributes significantly towards children's excellent progress.
- Children are extremely confident and animated at mealtimes. They follow highly effective care routines that increase their levels of independence and promote their self-help skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further innovative mark-marking opportunities to sustain the engagement of all children, helping them communicate using symbols and marks that are meaningful.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the pre-school's self-evaluation, accident records and first-aid certificates.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and the children.

Inspector

Wendy Kettleborough

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The continual professional development of staff is encouraged and planned in advance to best equip them for changes and to address specific children's needs. For example, comprehensive training was accessed before the pre-school started to admit two-year-old children, so it was best able to meet their needs. Regular self-evaluation is undertaken with all those involved with pre-school. This includes extensive communication at committee meetings, during staff supervision meetings and with parents. This provides direction, clear targets and shared goals which ensure the rapid progress of all children and continual improvements within the setting. For example, a recent review of the use of the mark-making area identified a lack of prolonged engagement by children. The manager and committee have an excellent understanding of how to implement the statutory requirements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children enjoy their time in pre-school and are excited to learn. The staff team devise, share and implement well-planned strategies to support individual children to achieve their very best. For example, colour-coded football goals present an opportunity for children to recognise colours while they enjoy learning outside. The practice of staff is exemplary. The expertise of staff is clearly evident in their meticulous assessment, ability to personalise innovative experiences and in-depth understanding of the children, their families and the extended community. Exceptional communication between staff consolidates the outstanding progress that children make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Personalised transition arrangements and a well-established key-person system allows staff dedicated time to build extremely positive relationships and reinforce clear boundaries. This helps children feel very secure and settled. Children independently use visual props to regulate their own and others' behaviour. For example, they instigate use of a timer as they learn to take turns and use mats to define their personal space at group times. Children receive constant positive feedback from staff which results in them having high levels of confidence and feelings of self-worth. Children demonstrate exceptionally positive behaviour, self-control and empathy towards others. Staff are extremely positive role models. They listen attentively to children. As a result, children listen to each other's ideas too.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Staff highly value each child in their care and undertake regular assessments which demonstrate children are making significant progress across all areas of learning. Children are highly motivated to join in and enjoy the challenge to problem solve for themselves. Children are highly adept at speaking for themselves and they listen and respect each other. As a result, children are gaining a wealth of skills to support their future learning, for example, at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253474
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	854822
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	Ancaster Pre School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2011
Telephone number	07814819137

Ancaster Pre-School was registered again in 1992. The pre-school employs four members of staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. In addition, the manager holds a degree in early years. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm, and from 12.15pm until 3.15pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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