

Apple Tree Pre-School

Sidmouth Infant School, Manstone Avenue, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9TJ



Inspection date

29 September 2015

Previous inspection date

4 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a range of interesting and stimulating activities. This contributes to children being challenged, motivated to learn and helps them make good progress from their starting points.
- Children's behaviour is good. They play cooperatively and learn to respect each other. Staff encourage this, such as by providing children with consistent guidance.
- Staff complete the progress check for children aged two years old effectively. This forms part of the good range of information shared with parents to keep them well informed of their children's progress.
- Management uses robust recruitment and induction procedures to ensure it only employs those suitable to work with children. Staff are skilled and fully understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Self-evaluation is good. The manager regularly seeks the views of parents and children, and uses these to improve the quality of the provision and daily practice.
- Staff form positive relationships with parents and welcome them into the pre-school. Parents comment that they are very happy with the care and teaching the staff provide.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the manager and staff monitor individual children's progress, they do not use the information fully to help identify if there are any differences in the progress made by different groups of children.
- Children do not have many opportunities to use equipment to develop their technology skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen arrangements for assessing the progress made by different groups of children to close any gaps in their learning even more rapidly
- increase opportunities for children to explore and use technology equipment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation including policies, staff suitability records, and children's observation, assessment and planning records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Petra Morgan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has a strong understanding of her responsibilities in meeting and implementing the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand fully how to keep children safe and what to do if they have safeguarding concerns. The manager strives to improve practice and has regular supervision meetings with staff to evaluate the quality and standards at the pre-school. The manager makes good use of her qualification and expertise to monitor each child's progress. The manager works effectively in partnership with the school and other agencies to support children's learning and well-being.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff offer children freedom to choose their play activities, while skilfully guiding and extending their learning. For example, when children make playdough birthday cakes, staff introduce mathematical language and encourage children to count the candles. Staff use a variety of methods to support children's communication and language skills well. They introduce new vocabulary, use gestures and encourage conversations. Staff provide a good range of resources to promote children's learning in all areas. Staff make accurate assessments of what children can do and use these to plan precise learning opportunities for children. Staff enhance their skills by attending training. They use their new knowledge to improve the quality of their teaching and the progress children make. For example, staff provided more activities for the younger children to stimulate all their senses and further support their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle quickly to activities as they arrive. They have strong relationships they have with staff, which helps to promote their emotional well-being and sense of belonging. Staff encourage children to do things for themselves. For example, children cut-up fruit for their snacks, pour their own drinks and tidy away after playing with resources. This helps children to develop self-confidence and independence, as well as learning to work with one another. Staff provide children with good opportunities to develop their physical skills outdoors and promote healthy eating well. This includes providing healthy snacks and involving the children in growing their own fruit and vegetables, which they then eat.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. They benefit from the support they receive and show high levels of self-confidence even though many are new to the setting. Children gain the skills they need in preparation for the move to school, such as independence and communication skills. For example, children confidently look at books independently and talk about what they have painted and drawn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105826
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	839342
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Apple Tree Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2010
Telephone number	01395 577233

Apple Tree Pre-School registered in 1999. It operates from one of the sites of Sidmouth Primary School. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term times. It is open from 9am to 3pm on Monday to Thursday, and from 9am to 12pm on Friday. There are eight members of staff; of these, one staff member has Qualified Teacher Status, one has an early years qualification at level 6, three have level 3 qualifications and one has a level 2 qualification. There are very close links with Sidmouth Primary School.

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