

Whitchurch Preschool

The Village Hall, Whitchurch Canonorum, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 6RF



Inspection date

2 October 2015

Previous inspection date

5 January 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

- Skilled, well-qualified staff provide a wealth of learning experiences that enthuse children. Children learn to become independent, active learners and gain the skills to prepare them well for school.
- Staff make regular assessments of children's development. Consequently, they know them well and plan next steps for their learning. Children make good progress from their initial starting points. The leader effectively monitors all children to identify any gaps in learning.
- There are strong arrangements to gather information from parents about their child's needs. Settling-in routines help children create secure bonds with staff. Therefore, children form emotional attachments and confidently seek reassurance when needed. This motivates their learning, confidence and well-being.
- Staff's knowledge of the safeguarding procedures is strong. They have a clear understanding of their duty to report any concerns they may have about children or their colleagues. Regular training keeps staff up to date with any changes. This means children are extremely safe in this provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Overall, staff plan a good range of group learning opportunities, such as phonics sessions. However, at times, some of the younger children find it difficult to concentrate and older children's opportunities to learn are therefore fewer.
- Occasionally, children are unsure of their boundaries or expectations, which affects their understanding of self-control.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the planning of some large group times to make sure that all children benefit from the learning intentions
- make the most of all opportunities to ensure that children are aware of the boundaries set and expectations of their behaviour within the preschool.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector discussed the provision at appropriate times with staff, parents and children.
- The inspector sampled a range of paperwork including policies, the self-evaluation document, suitability paperwork and children's online learning journals.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents through discussion and from questionnaire comments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the leader.

Inspector

Shirelle Norris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff and committee members review policies and procedures proficiently. There are good recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to support the process. Regular supervisions of staff ensure high-quality practice. Qualified staff have much experience and this knowledge has a positive impact on children's progress. Support and encouragement for staff to maintain their professional development also improves outcomes for children. Specific training around how children learn enables staff to meet children's individual needs. Self-evaluation methods are effective, helping the staff to build on their strengths and highlight significant areas for development. The views of the children and their parents guide and inform practice through daily discussion, observation and questionnaires. Staff work together to address previous inspection recommendations.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff teach children's speaking and listening skills well. They model and repeat words to children. They consistently talk to children and question them to encourage them to take part in conversations. Children have many opportunities to make marks with a variety of writing equipment. These teaching methods take account of individual learning and offer many opportunities. Staff quickly identify children who have special educational needs. They arrange support plans, which successfully help them to make good progress; likewise staff provide good support for disabled children. To contribute to mathematical learning, staff teach children to count and recognise numbers, and they talk about shapes. Overall, there are opportunities for children to progress in all areas of development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children engage in activities because staff interact well with them. The key-person approach is effective. It works well to build children's emotional security. Staff respond to children's needs and praise their efforts and achievements. The stimulating outdoor environment provides an abundance of opportunities for children to explore, investigate and be physically active. Children follow hygiene routines and learn about healthy lifestyles. They enjoy nutritious and healthy snacks. Parents support this learning at home to offer continuity. The pre-school's links with other professionals and parents are strong. This means that children have an effective network of care around them.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn to make friends and feel safe in this environment. They enjoy spontaneous opportunities that staff welcome and seize. Children learn to value their surroundings and respect difference in the wider world. This helps them gain a positive foundation for life.

Setting details

Unique reference number	139372
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	841356
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Whitchurch Canonichorum Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	5 January 2010
Telephone number	07717514053

Whitchurch Pre-school was established in 1979 and is run by a parent committee. It operates from the village hall in the rural village of Whitchurch Canonichorum, near Bridport, Dorset. The pre-school is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during term time only. Sessions run from 8.30am until 3pm daily. The pre-school employs seven members of staff who work with the children. Five staff have early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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