

Willow Rise Pre-School

Downswood Community Centre, Chiltern Close, Downswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8XG



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

2 October 2015

17 March 2011

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Parents are well informed and involved in their children's progress. Staff regularly share information about children's learning with their parents. Therefore, all children make good progress due to the consistency between the pre-school and home environment.
- Children are happy and confidently explore their ideas through play. This is due to the good relationships children have with staff.
- Children are kept safe during their time at the pre-school. The staff have a good knowledge of the policies and procedures to follow and who to contact if a concern was to arise.
- Staff encourage children to explore new experiences and be actively involved throughout the day. Therefore, all children are extremely independent and develop excellent skills for their future learning.
- Children behave well and are exceptionally polite and respectful towards others. Staff consistently role model positive behaviour and language extremely well.
- The managers are determined to continue to make positive changes. The staff work well together and have effective systems to reflect and evaluate practice. This enables them to provide new learning ideas and experiences to interest and engage children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to fully extend children's learning outside.
- The staff do not always provide opportunities for children to further develop their information, communication and technology skills on a daily basis.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve further the organisation of the outdoor environment to provide children with a wider range of learning experiences
- extend opportunities for children to further develop their awareness of information, communication and technology skills on a daily basis.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the indoor and outside environment.
- The inspector observed the staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector looked at the written documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The staff team works well together and uses self-evaluation and reflection to make positive changes. The managers monitor the consistency of practice through the regular staff supervision meetings and encourage them to attend regular training. This helps to maintain the good quality of teaching and enables staff to keep up to date with new ideas and requirements. The staff have good links with the local community. For example, staff hold fundraising events and communicate well with other pre-school groups, outside professionals and schools to share information effectively. This helps to promote continuity in children's care and learning. Staff monitor and track children's learning to ensure they make good progress and provide further support where required. Parents speak highly of the positive communication. All staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children. Therefore, safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children's individual needs and preferences well. They understand when to extend children's interests to engage them further in activities and experiences, to support their learning. Staff accurately track and record children's progress and promptly identify any gaps in progress. This enables them to support children in an individual way to close gaps and help them make good progress in relation to their starting points. Children develop good communication, speaking and listening skills. Staff have high expectations of children and engage them in discussions to promote their thinking and problem-solving skills. Children have good opportunities to develop a good understanding of ethnicities and differences in the community. For example, children access and play with a wide range of resources and take part in cultural celebrations. Children develop good physical well-being, as they play outside daily, independently access drinks and rest if they need too.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely engaged in their learning experiences. Children have a high level of well-being and sense of belonging, due to the trusting and secure relationships formed. Children are exceptionally confident and have excellent social skills as they engage in conversations and play happily together. Children learn to be respectful as they share and take turns.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. Children have a good understanding of literacy and mathematical concepts. Children are prepared for the next stage in their learning well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127777
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840712
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Willow Rise Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2011
Telephone number	07857835063

Willow Rise Pre-School opened in 1990. It operates from the large hall in a community hall in Downswood, near Maidstone, Kent. The pre-school opens five days a week during term time only, on Tuesday to Friday from 9.15am until 12.15pm, and on Monday from 9.15am until 1.15pm. The pre-school employs five staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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