

Caterpillars Montessori Pre-School



Playgroup Welshampton C of E Primary School, Welshampton, ELLESMERE,
Shropshire, SY12 0PG

Inspection date	2 October 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff use their qualifications, training and experience to provide outstanding teaching to all children. They adapt their teaching to the needs of individual children, including disabled children and those who have special educational needs. All children make the best possible progress from their starting points and gaps in learning are swiftly closed.
- Since registering, the pre-school have developed excellent working relationships with the local schools. Staff and teachers discuss how best to prepare children for school. Children also have the opportunity to use the host school's facilities on a weekly basis. The move to school is extremely smooth.
- The pre-school puts partnership working at the forefront of their work. They have excellent links with the local community, which they use to enhance children's learning. They also refer to, and make parents aware of, other agencies that may provide beneficial support to their family.
- Children and their families have wonderful relationships with staff. Their emotional well-being is exceptionally well promoted. Children receive an incredibly warm welcome on arrival. Parents comment 'staff are supportive and offer good advice on how to be a parent'.
- There is a strong culture of safeguarding. All staff have an in-depth understanding of the pre-school's and local child protection procedures. They are trained and are confident to report any concerns about abuse or neglect. The manager effectively monitors children's absence. She checks that they are not at risk of harm.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- take more account of children's views and enrich the self-evaluation process further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff working with the children.
- The inspector looked at samples of children's records and learning documentation. He also looked at policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector observed activities in the pre-school and outdoors. He also accompanied staff and children on an outing.
- The inspector spoke to staff throughout the inspection and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Scott Oliver Thomas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Strong accountability across all levels of the management team and pre-school staff underpins a shared vision towards delivering exceptional standards. Highly effective arrangements for regular, reflective supervision and checking staff performance lead to a high level of consistency in practice. Robust procedures for checking the quality of the provision ensure that children receive a rich and challenging range of activities. Thorough analysis of assessment information means that any potential learning needs are recognised and met quickly. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager follows stringent recruitment procedures. Excellent self-evaluation accurately identified how the pre-school can improve even further. For example, leaders have plans in place to improve the self-evaluation process further by seeking children's views on the strengths and weaknesses of the pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their strong knowledge of how children learn and their expertise in Montessori teaching to provide an outstanding range of learning opportunities. Children acquire key skills to support their development. One of the ways children's language, communication and literacy is developed is through the use of early writing and encouraging children to recognise familiar letters and sounds. Children initiate many activities themselves which are then skilfully supported by staff. Their interest in colours sparked by stories they have read at home leads to staff enabling children to use paint to mix colours. Children make predications and enhance their problem-solving skills. Children's mathematical development is promoted well. The good use of a range of high-quality resources enables children to measure, count and use mathematical language. They learn essential skills through asking questions. Children are very well prepared for school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's well-being is highly promoted through exceptional care arrangements. New children settle quickly. Staff support them extremely well, allowing them to explore the environment at their own pace. Staff are excellent role models and play alongside children, helping them to understand how to share and take turns. Children form strong attachments with their peers and quickly understand what behaviour is acceptable. All meals are healthy and staff make the most of mealtimes to promote children's understanding of the importance of a healthy diet. Staff make parents aware of the importance of prompt attendance. Children have an excellent knowledge of their own community and the wider world. One of the ways staff encourage this is through regular outings and visits from local people.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Planning and assessment arrangements are precise and sharply focused on every child's needs. Every child makes rapid progress from their starting points. Children are extremely well prepared for school. Some children achieve beyond what is expected for their age.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460440
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	933352
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	Camilla Bruce and Ruth Good Partnership
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01948710123

Caterpillars Montessori Pre-School was registered in 2013. It is one of two settings operated by the same provider. The pre-school follows the Montessori approach. It employs five members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school is open term time only, Monday to Thursday from 8am to 3pm and on Friday from 9am to 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The setting supports disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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