

Woolstone Pre-school Playgroup

Woolstone Community Centre, Mill Lane, Woolstone, Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire, MK15 0AJ



Inspection date

8 October 2015

Previous inspection date

5 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 an interesting range of learning experiences for children, both inside and outside. As a result, children are motivated and eager to explore and learn.
- Staff identify children's next steps through effective assessment. They increasingly plan activities that stem directly from children's interests and support the further development of each child's skills.
- Children play in a clean and safe environment where they learn to keep themselves safe through daily routines and activities. For example during role play, the children talk about keeping safe by wearing hard hats as they build houses.
- Children develop good literacy skills. They learn to recognise and find their name when they arrive, enjoy listening to and making up stories, and write for different purposes, such as shopping lists.
- The enthusiastic staff team works effectively together to develop the good service they offer to children and their families. Parents speak highly of staff helping their children to develop good social and communication skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully promote children's self-esteem. They do not always help children share their efforts and achievements to encourage them to become successful learners.
- Staff do not fully encourage parents to share their children's achievements from home. Therefore, there is not always a consistent approach to meeting children's learning and development needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children share their efforts and achievements to further boost their self-esteem and encourage them to become successful learners
- encourage parents to share more details about what their children learn and achieve at home to further complement their learning in pre-school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play hall and garden.
- The inspector had discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records and tracking of their development, the self-evaluation form and a selection of policies.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The pre-school is well led and managed. Since the last inspection, the manager and staff have made significant steps to improve outcomes for children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager uses rigorous recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of staff. She carries out thorough risk assessments to minimise hazards to keep children safe. The manager ensures all staff have a good knowledge of child protection to protect children's welfare. The manager's self-evaluation is effective and children's and parents' views are valued. The manager and deputy have sharpened their focus on observing staff practice to strengthen their teaching skills. Therefore, children make good progress given their starting points. The manager closely tracks children's progress, which helps to highlight and close any gaps in their achievement. The manager makes good links with other professionals to support children that require additional help and extend their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a well-balanced educational programme. They are skilled at knowing when to intervene in children's activities to extend their learning. Staff observe, assess and record children's learning. They are very aware of what each child can do and what they need to learn next. Children are busy, play alongside their friends and concentrate as they partake in activities. The quality of teaching is good. Staff ask effective questions and make suggestions to help children think and solve problems. Children learn mathematical skills when they talk about and discuss the size of dinosaurs, such as 'bigger' and 'smaller'. They learn early writing skills as they make marks in the sand with sticks. Children develop good imaginations. For example, they act out story lines and use real food in the well-resourced home corner. Children have good opportunities to learn about the world in which they live. Parents come in to pre-school to help children celebrate festivals, such as Eid, and talk to them about traditional clothing.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Each child has a key person who knows them very well and effectively meets their individual care and learning needs. Children behave very well and they talk about and follow the 'golden rules'. Parents compliment staff for teaching their children good manners at snack and meal times. Children learn good hygiene practices, such as hand washing. Children enjoy eating healthy snacks, and develop good independence skills as they pour drinks and use tongs to pick up fruit. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise, and use a wide range of apparatus. This helps to develop their physical skills and promote their physical well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with special educational needs, disabled children and those learning English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. Children gain key skills to help them prepare well for moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141892
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1014804
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	Woolstone Pre-school Committee
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2015
Telephone number	01908 692476

Woolstone Pre-school Playgroup registered 2001. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday during term time only, from 9.15am until 11.45pm. On Monday and Wednesday, it runs a lunch club, extending hours until 2.45pm. On Tuesday and Thursday, the lunch club runs until 1pm. There is no lunch club on Friday. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff; of these, five hold qualifications at level 3.

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