

Willowfield Pre-School Limited

Steepleview Community Hall, Laindon, BASILDON, Essex, SS15 4EQ



Inspection date	15 October 2015
Previous inspection date	21 May 2012

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

- The quality of teaching is good. Assessments of children's progress by staff are precise and effectively inform planning to offer children individualised learning experiences.
- Children are eager to participate in this delightfully calm yet busy pre-school. They enjoy taking part in their play alongside staff who know and understand how to support children's learning and development.
- Children's personal development and well-being are effectively supported by the warm and affectionate care given to them by the pre-school staff. Children demonstrate a real sense of belonging.
- Effective partnership working with parents means that there is a united approach to meeting individual children's needs and helping them to develop relevant skills for the future.
- The highly experienced and longstanding pre-school staff team show a strong commitment to providing a good provision. There is a shared vision of how to continue to drive improvement and respond to the needs of children and their families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not use opportunities to ask questions that test out and challenge children's thinking to further enhance their learning.
- Staff obtain information about children from their parents when they first attend. However, this focuses more on children's care and not on their learning to date. This reduces the opportunity for planning to take account of each child's starting points and capabilities from the start of their placement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus continuous professional development opportunities on enhancing the already good teaching even further
- strengthen the arrangements for obtaining information from parents about children's learning to date.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with a pre-school director.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and administrator, and looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure staff working with children are suitable to do so. The manager and staff work well as a team. All of the staff team hold early years qualifications and have many years of experience in working with children. This has a positive impact on the quality of teaching overall. Staff have regular meetings with the manager and are encouraged to attend further training to enhance their practice. The manager monitors the educational programme and tracks children's overall development. She ensures that any gaps in children's progress are identified and addressed. Staff work hard to establish and maintain successful partnerships with parents. When necessary, staff can obtain the advice and guidance they need to effectively support children and their families. Key persons obtain general information about children's care from their parents when they first start to establish an understanding about their individual needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are active learners who are motivated to engage in the wide variety of interesting and challenging activities available to them. Staff regularly observe and assess children's learning and plan activities based on their individual needs. Staff promote children's communication and language well. They engage children in conversations and model the good use of language. Picture timetables are used by staff and children to further support the younger children's understanding of pre-school routines. Their early mathematical skills are promoted. Staff take opportunities to encourage children to count as they play. Children measure themselves, developing skills in sizing and comparison. These experiences prepare children well for their future learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work hard to create a calm and welcoming atmosphere where children flourish. Children enjoy the secure and trusting relationships they have with staff. Staff have established good links with local primary schools, which help promote continuity so that they are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Children's independence is promoted well through the thoughtfully planned environment and they have plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise each day. They are able to choose whether they want to play indoors or outside during the pre-school session. Children take part in fun exercise routines that help them develop their physical skills. Children are helped to understand staffs' expectations for their behaviour. Staff are consistent in their approach and are good role models. Therefore, children learn to share, take turns and be kind to one another.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning during their time at the pre-school. They are cared for in an inclusive environment where their individual needs are well supported. They are making progress that is typical for their age and this includes children with special educational needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY439639
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	854015
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Willowfield Pre-School Limited
Date of previous inspection	21 May 2012
Telephone number	07891036905

Willowfield Pre-School Limited was registered in 2011. The pre-school employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, ten hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3, including one with an Early Years Foundation Degree. The pre-school opens from 9.00am until 12pm each morning and from 12.10pm to 3.10pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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