

Norton St Philip Pre School



Norton St. Philip First School, Church Street, Norton St. Philip, Bath, BA2 7LU

Inspection date	12 November 2015
Previous inspection date	26 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Children are emotionally settled and very confident due to the highly nurturing and established relationships they have with staff. They behave exceptionally well, and play and learn together very happily.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Parents contribute to their children's learning and assessment. Staff keep them fully informed of their children's progress and achievements. As a result, there are exceptional links between home and pre-school.
- The leadership team uses their experience and knowledge to skilfully evaluate the overall quality of the pre-school. They have high expectations of staff and guide them through effective support, so outcomes for children always improve.
- Staff have a strong knowledge of how young children learn. Activities they plan are tailored to the individual needs of the children. All make good progress from their starting points and are well prepared for starting school, including those who are learning English as an additional language.
- Staff have excellent knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities and of child protection and safeguarding procedures to keep children safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are too few opportunities for children to use technology to expand their learning.
- Children's progress is not always checked closely enough to identify any less obvious gaps in their learning to ensure they make rapid progress in all areas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to learn and practise using technology
- improve checks on children's progress to identify any gaps in their learning so all make rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the provider and manager at appropriate times during the inspection and in meetings.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's records, planning and assessment records. The suitability of committee members and staff to work with children was also checked.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff, committee members and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Dominique Allotey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Overall, the well-qualified staff team makes good use of their qualifications and training to ensure that the early years requirements are met. The leadership team is clear in knowing what areas to improve. The staff are passionate about their work and have a drive for constant improvement. Team morale is high. Safeguarding is effective. Staff form highly effective relationships with the on-site school and other early years settings. Robust recruitment practices include staff vetting to ensure their suitability to work with children. Leaders regularly observe staff to monitor and maintain the good quality of staff teaching. Leaders check individual children's well-being extremely well to aid their enjoyment of learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Children make consistently good progress and really enjoy their time at the pre-school. Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and of ways to promote their learning and development. They generally use observation methods carefully to plan for what children need to learn based on their abilities and interests. Children enjoy their play. They make choices from a wide range of toys and resources and become deeply involved in activities. Staff promote children's communication skills well and children become confident speakers. Children become highly involved in activities that promote their knowledge of nature, such as when 'leaf hunting'. They develop their creative skills as they explore different textures, such as paint and modelling materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff ensure there is a highly stimulating environment with accessible resources that promote learning and challenge, indoors and outdoors. Staff encourage children to be kind to one another, helping them to highly respect others. Children develop excellent independence skills, which promotes their physical development, confidence and self-esteem to high levels. Staff prepare all children extremely well emotionally for the next stage in learning. Staff have built very close links between home, the local community and pre-school. This contributes to children's strong well-being, meaning children settle exceptionally well. Staff promote children's self-esteem extremely well. Children form very caring bonds with their allocated person, other staff and their friends. Children have an excellent range of opportunities to learn about nature and to enjoy exercise and fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are motivated, enjoying the play and learning opportunities that are tailored to their needs. All children make consistently good progress from their starting point in their communication, number and particularly their emotional development. Their outcomes are good. Children are well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY266916
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	826651
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	14
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Norton St Philip Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 June 2009
Telephone number	01373834628

Norton St Philip Pre-School registered in 2003. It operates within Norton St Philip First School, Bath. The setting operates Monday to Friday during term time. The sessions are from 9am to 3pm, 9am to 1pm or 12 noon to 3pm. There are three staff who work with the children and all have early years qualifications at level 3. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged three and four years.

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