

Viking Junior Academy

Wentworth Primary School, Viking Road, MALDON, Essex, CM9 6JN



Inspection date	17 November 2015
Previous inspection date	14 September 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The management team shows strong leadership skills. They and their staff team have a clear vision to ensure all children achieve and make good progress.
- Staff provide an interesting and attractive environment so children can learn and enjoy the time they spend at the pre-school. Teaching is consistently strong and children make good progress.
- Staff have a caring and nurturing approach. They are sensitive to the children's individual emotions and adapt activities and routines well to meet their needs.
- Partnerships with parents and carers are good. Staff encourage parents and carers to share what they know about their children. Together they review the children's progress and set targets to help them achieve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Arrangements for professional development do not focus sufficiently on raising the quality of teaching to as high a level as possible.
- Occasionally, some of the activities are not planned well enough to maintain children's interest in full.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus professional development more precisely on increasing the potential to consistently deliver exceptionally high standards of teaching
- support children more effectively to consistently remain fully engaged in their learning.

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 the manager and held a meeting with the manager and the provider.
- The inspector 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 a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The leaders work well together to monitor the educational programmes and ensure children make good progress in their learning. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are robust. All staff have clear roles and responsibilities and know the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child. Staff benefit from training opportunities and supervisions to help improve their teaching and children's learning. The manager works alongside the staff and supports those that are unqualified to improve. For example, she coaches and supports staff who are working towards an early years qualification, in order to ensure the quality of teaching is consistently good.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have realistic expectations of children, and many of the activities on offer capture their interest and imagination quickly. Staff provide a good range of adult-led activities to help children actively learn. Children show good levels of interest and concentration. Staff also include good opportunities for children to explore, discover and to use their imagination, both indoors and outdoors. They use inspiring topics to provide good learning experiences that cover all aspects of children's development. They make sure that children learn the skills they need to prepare them for the move on to school. Overall, children are building good skills in mathematics and literacy. Children have good opportunities to listen and to talk about their ideas. Many confidently communicate their thoughts.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide good, first-hand experiences for children to learn about how to stay safe. For example, the topic on 'people who help us' has resulted in a number of uniformed services staff visiting the children. Children are encouraged to share with each other information about themselves and their families. They learn to recognise and value differences. They explore their own and other people's customs and the wider world. Children are well behaved and staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management. Children thoroughly enjoy being outdoors in the fresh air and have good opportunities to increase their physical skills. Staff ensure that snack time is a calm and social occasion and children have good opportunities to increase their independence and self-help skills. Staff talk to children about the healthy options available and how they benefit their health.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those receiving additional funding, progress well from their starting points. They make good progress in all areas of learning. Children who need additional support are identified quickly and are helped to progress well. All children gain the skills they need for the move on to school. Children who attend the breakfast and after-school club are clearly happy. They cooperate well with their friends. They are eager to report how much they enjoy the club and the activities on offer.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY409367
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	850991
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Viking Junior Academy Limited
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2011
Telephone number	0758 3261354

Viking Junior Academy was registered in 2010. It operates from a designated demountable classroom within the grounds of Wentworth Primary School, in Maldon, Essex. During the school term, out of school care is offered from 7.30am to 9am and from 3pm to 6pm. The pre-school is open from 9am to 2pm. During school holidays the holiday club is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are nine staff employed. Of these, one has a qualification at level 4, four hold a qualification at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2.

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