

Great Paxton Under Fives Association



Community Room, Great Paxton C of E School, Mount Pleasant, ST. NEOTS,
Cambridgeshire, PE19 6YJ

Inspection date	26 November 2015
Previous inspection date	28 April 2010

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

- Children benefit from a richly resourced outdoor area which is available throughout most of the session. All areas of their learning are supported well.
- The well-qualified staff work effectively as a team and have a thorough understanding of how children learn through play. The quality of teaching is consistently good.
- Children are positively encouraged to develop their self-care skills and help with practical tasks. They prepare their snacks, clear the table and help to tidy away. This helps to promote their self-reliance and prepare them for the next stage of their learning.
- Staff have developed successful partnerships with parents. Communication is effective and parents appreciate the caring and friendly staff.
- Children develop a love of books during spontaneous and planned story times. They learn the importance of practical writing skills indoors and outdoors. They make good progress in their learning and are well prepared for school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While the pre-school has a very good partnership with the host school, partnerships with other early years settings are not as well established.
- Staff do not have the highest expectations of the older and more-able children, particularly those who are very active. Occasionally, some children lose focus in their play because activities do not always challenge them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with other early years settings that children attend, to effectively support continuity of care and learning
- review children's learning experiences to ensure that older and more-able children continue to be fully challenged to help them extend their learning potential.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. There were discussions with staff about how they plan for children's next steps in learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and a representative of the management committee. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation, evidence of the suitability of staff and committee, and some policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff attend regular training in child protection. They have a good understanding of what to do if they have concerns about children in their care. Children's attendance is monitored and any accidents or incidents promptly recorded. Staff make ongoing checks of the premises to make sure any hazards are minimised. Staff meet together frequently to assess and monitor the quality of the provision, and the consistency of children's learning records. They attend local network meetings to share ideas and discuss good practice. Staff implement new ideas with enthusiasm, such as the addition of a mud kitchen to support children's imaginative play. Strong partnerships with the host school help to support children as they prepare for their move into Reception class. Children use many of the school's facilities and get to know their teachers.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work effectively together to support children during their play. They plan enjoyable experiences, such as making models with various materials. Structured activities are woven into the child-focused routines so they do not take children away from self-chosen play. Staff present these in lively and stimulating ways, encouraging children to take part with enthusiasm. Children explore numbers, colours and shapes, and learn about the sounds and letters in their names. Outdoors, children enjoy using a variety of wheeled toys. A large sand box provides good opportunities for scooping, filling and emptying with a variety of containers. Staff question children skilfully, helping them to learn about size and quantity. Children use their imaginations well, indoors and out. They make pretend ice cream with sand and dress up as their favourite story characters.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop self-esteem and confidence in this friendly pre-school. Staff help them demonstrate what they know, for example, as they sing a well-known song to their friends. Children show pride in their achievements. They complete creative artwork with care, and enjoy seeing their work displayed. Staff promote kind and caring behaviour by being good role models. They help children to share and take turns during everyday activities, such as using the computer. Children's good health is supported well through healthy snacks. They grow vegetables and herbs in the garden which helps them to learn about growth and change.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff complete regular checks on children's development and share these with parents. This helps to ensure that all children make good progress in their learning. Children are prepared well for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221746
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	865958
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Great Paxton under Fives Association Committee
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2010
Telephone number	01480 472132

Great Paxton Under Fives Association has been registered since 2001. The pre-school operates from Monday to Friday between 8.50am and 11.50am during school term times. There are three members of staff, including the manager. All of these hold a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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