

Squirrels Pre-school

West Totton Community Centre, Hazel Farm Road, Totton, Hampshire, SO40 8WU



Inspection date

21 January 2016

Previous inspection date

23 June 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 manager and staff are committed to providing children with high quality care and education. They use self-evaluation effectively to reflect upon and improve their practice. They have met the recommendations raised at the last inspection.
- The manager closely monitors children's progress and carefully addresses children's individual learning needs well. Parents contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points and staff keep them informed about their children's progress.
- Staff know all children well and are skilled in helping them form secure emotional attachments. Children settle quickly and thrive in the welcoming environment.
- Staff use detailed observations of children to make accurate assessments of their learning. They plan challenging next steps in learning that promote children's good progress and prepare them successfully for school.
- Staff and parents work together well. Parents express how much their children enjoy being at the pre-school. They appreciate the good quality of care and support their children receive.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally during some group activities, including when reading stories, staff do not support all children's involvement.
- The manager and staff sometimes miss opportunities to help children learn how to use technology and the internet safely.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the good teaching even further during group activities to provide opportunities for all children to be involved, particularly when staff read stories
- strengthen children's understanding of using technology and the internet safely.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector sampled children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.

Inspector

Jacqueline Good

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team leads the pre-school well and fully understands requirements. They ensure that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. The manager and committee effectively gather the views of staff, parents and children to help them identify where they can make improvements. Staff have individual meetings and support from the manager, who monitors their practice well and ensures children benefit from the staff training. For example, recent training has helped staff to manage children's behaviour and complex needs better. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a good understanding of the child protection process and know whom to contact if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The staff are well trained in first aid.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's development is assessed through an effective observation and recording system. This allows key persons to gain a clear picture of children's progress, so they can plan for their next steps for learning and provide support at a pace to suit them. Children make choices from a variety of engaging activities and resources, which are stored in easily accessible low-level storage. This helps children become confident and self-assured. At the inspection, children focused intently as they scooped lentils, rice and flour, moving ingredients from one container to another. Staff encouraged them to be creative as they discussed the imaginary concoctions they were making. Children receive regular, effective support to help them increase their vocabulary and gain the confidence to join in conversations.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and eager to learn. They feel secure and protected, building strong bonds with the adults who care for them. Staff manage children's behaviour effectively and children are familiar with behavioural expectations. They take turns, share and wait patiently for others to have their go. Children persevere with tasks until they are finished and understand that they are all responsible for helping to tidy up afterwards. Staff promote children's understanding of healthy lifestyles well. For example, they provide children with a selection of healthy snacks, opportunities to participate in physical play every day and teach them good hygiene practices.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and staff successfully promote their learning and development in all areas. Staff increasingly analyse the progress that different groups of children make and take effective action to address any differences in children's levels of achievement. Children gain the necessary skills to prepare them well for the next stage in learning and move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511345
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	842396
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	98
Name of provider	Squirrels Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 June 2011
Telephone number	023 80862266

Squirrels Pre-School registered in 1989. It operates in Totton, Hampshire. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday during school term times from 8.25am to 3.25pm. There are 14 members of staff, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 4. In addition, the pre-school employs an administrative assistant.

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