

Willows Centre for Children

Battenburg Avenue, North End, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 0SN



Inspection date	27 January 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 highly inclusive nursery provides very good support for disabled children and those who have special educational needs. Staff are well trained and know how to promote children's learning and development effectively so that they all make good progress.
- The staff are good role models for the children. They consistently promote the use of good manners, being helpful and kind to others.
- There is strong emphasis on the safeguarding and welfare of children. For example, the premises are very safe and secure, and staff fully understand child protection procedures.
- The well-planned and stimulating environment encourages children to make play choices and explore independently, indoors and outdoors. For example, the youngest children splash in puddles and play with small world toys.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of teaching and learning does not always ensure high learning outcomes, particularly for the children under three years of age.
- The youngest children do not always benefit from a wide range of sensory experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the monitoring of teaching and learning to ensure high learning outcomes, particularly for the children under three years of age
- enhance opportunities for children to explore different textures and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the children's play activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at the available resources.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the nominated person and manager about their leadership and management, including how they evaluate staff's practice.
- The inspectors had a discussion with a small sample of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector sampled and read relevant documentation.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Management follows robust employment and induction procedures to ensure the staff are suitable to work with children. Staff performance is enhanced through regular meetings with the managers to celebrate success and identify aspects of practice to develop. Staff attend many training courses to further improve their practice, particularly in the area of special educational needs. The nursery team regularly self-evaluates practice. They have realistic ideas for improvement which clearly link to the action plans. Management monitors children's progress. There is very good multi-agency working. For example, staff follow strategies as advised by other professionals to provide continuity of learning and care. Good partnership with parents ensures a united approach to the sharing of information about their child's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Consistently good teaching by staff ensures that all children are engaged in purposeful play to match their needs. The staff have a good knowledge of each unique child and use their observations of children's learning to accurately assess their progress. Staff create precise next steps for each child's learning, which they address in freely chosen or adult-led play. For example, children confidently sing and use signs during 'hello time' and then choose their play activities by talking to the adult and pointing to the pictures. They show self-assurance and motivation in their learning. The staff fully understand their role and how young children learn and develop. For example, they promote children's self-help skills, turn taking and mathematics during snack time. The youngest children are encouraged to be independent, for instance, selecting a tissue to blow their nose.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children feel welcomed, settled and happy because of the strong emphasis to promote their well-being. They feel emotionally secure and become socially independent when they feel ready, for example, to venture into a different playroom. Staff in the under two's room are sensitive and understanding, particularly of the newest children's needs. For example, they take siblings to see each other when they become upset and share children's family photograph books to promote a strong sense of belonging. Staff regularly check sleeping babies and closely follow their home routines to promote their physical well-being. Children's nutritional needs are met well. There are good opportunities for children to play outdoors in all weathers.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points, including those below the expected level of development and the most vulnerable children. This helps prepare them for their future learning, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY320122
Local authority	Portsmouth
Inspection number	1037953
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	120
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Willows Centre for Children
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02392 666918

Willows Centre for Children opened in 1973 and registered in 2006. It is run by the local authority and is situated in Portsmouth, Hampshire. The nursery opens five days a week, for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.45am until 5.45pm. There are 31 members of staff; of these, two have Early Years Teacher Status, four are qualified to level 6 and 24 have relevant childcare qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years, as well as the early years pupil premium.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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