

Whitfield Valley Community Nursery

Whitfield Valley Centre, Fegg Hayes Road, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST6 6QR



Inspection date	12 February 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 quality of teaching is good. Staff use the wide range of good quality toys and resources extremely well. They provide interesting and challenging activities, which engage and motivate children. This has a positive impact on children's learning opportunities.
- Staff are well qualified and experienced. They are supported well through good quality induction and supervision procedures.
- The strong focus on developing the skills and knowledge of managers and staff results in continuous improvements for children. Staff attend training to continue to update their knowledge of how children learn and develop. The emphasis on the quality of teaching and activities provided helps to ensure that all children make good progress.
- Children undoubtedly enjoy their time in this welcoming environment. Staff provide regular praise and encouragement, so that children have a positive sense of themselves.
- Additional government funding received by the nursery is used very well to support children's learning and development.
- Disabled children and those with special educational needs are well supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally during whole-group activities, children's enjoyment is not maximised. For example, they sometimes wait too long to play outside.
- The monitoring of children's progress does not yet fully include comparing the progress of learning for specific groups of children across the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of whole-group activities to minimise waiting times for children, in order to maximise their engagement and enjoyment
- build on the existing effective monitoring systems to enable staff to check and compare the progress of groups of children more readily.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the centre manager. She carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector talked with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the nursery's self-evaluation information and the improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff, parents and children spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

A knowledgeable and dedicated management team leads the nursery. They are supported by a highly committed staff team that shares a clear vision to give each child the best possible start in life. They use their qualifications, knowledge and experience to improve the learning outcomes for children. Continuous professional development is well planned and matches the needs of the children who attend. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust recruitment and vetting systems ensure that any person having access or working with children is suitable to do so. Leaders involve parents, staff and children in their self-evaluation. This, along with support from the local authority and focused development plans, helps to identify improvements so that children continue to enjoy their time and make good progress at the nursery. This unified approach helps to continually improve the children's learning opportunities. All children are developing relevant skills for the future.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work with parents to complete initial detailed assessments prior to children starting at the nursery. Parents are kept well informed about their child's ongoing learning. They appreciate the regular reviews and discussions regarding their children's progress. They feel involved in their children's learning through the ideas and resources staff provide to help them to continue their child's learning at home. Staff know how to observe and assess children's progress accurately and so are able to identify and close any gaps in their learning quickly. Staff are playful, with an enviable zest and vigour. They show children how to be inquisitive. The learning environment provides variety and challenge for children. Staff use their good teaching skills to help children focus well during activities that are planned to capture their interest. Children's creative development is enhanced as they draw, colour pictures and build their own structures. They learn to count, compare and recognise numbers. Children are given time and space to explore and investigate the excellent variety of toys and resources outdoors. They demonstrate their good listening skills as they attentively follow instructions when they make their own malleable materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The kind and caring staff help their key children to form strong, appropriate attachments with them. Staff teach children to be respectful to one another. Children behave well. Children show their growing independence as they prepare their own nutritious snacks. Children's communication and language development is supported very well. They speak happily and confidently with the staff, visitors and each other.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. Children are motivated, inquisitive and engaged. They are gaining the skills and attitudes required for their next steps in learning, including their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474866
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	976764
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 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Chell Area Family Action Group
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01782 814134

Whitfield Valley Community Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 5. The nursery opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm and 1.30pm until 4.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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