

Abbotsham and Alwington Pre-School



The Old School Room and Major's Office, Abbotsham, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5AP

Inspection date	9 March 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff build a detailed knowledge of children's development from their observations and assessments and plan a good range of activities in which children engage well.
- The key persons are highly skilled and sensitive and help children to form extremely strong emotional attachments. Staff promote the children's sense of belonging and feelings of security to the highest level.
- Children benefit from a huge variety of high-quality resources that effectively promote their learning. They are self-confident, interested and motivated.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff use a range of different strategies to share information about children's experiences in the setting to ensure they meet children's individual care and learning needs.
- Leaders and managers are committed to improving outcomes for all children. They are active in seeking feedback on their practice, including obtaining the views of parents and children to assist their own evaluation.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally staff miss opportunities to extend children's literacy skills.
- At times, the organisation of small group activities does not enable all children to take part confidently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills consistently to enable them to write in meaningful contexts
- review the organisation of small group activities so that all children, including those that are less confident, are able to participate fully.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, the manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled documentation including staff qualification certificates, self-evaluation and children's records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and reviewed written feedback left for the inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have attended training and understand what they need to do should they have a concern regarding a child in their care. The manager supervises staff and monitors their performance well. This helps teaching to improve continuously. Staff participate in professional development to help them in improving their knowledge and practice. For example, staff undertook training on encouraging children to ask questions to extend their learning. The highly qualified staff team aspire to improve. Staff monitor the progress individual children make in their learning and development well, to help them plan what children need to learn next.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All staff have high expectations for all children. Staff complete precise assessments and use this information to plan for children. Staff know the children well and seek comprehensive information from key people involved in their lives. Children enjoy their time at the welcoming setting. They take part in varied and exciting activities. For example, they used a world map to see where they had been on holiday and used words in different languages. Staff sit with children and support them as they ask purposeful questions and listen carefully to them to extend their thinking. This contributes to the good progress children make and motivates them to become active and engaged learners.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive as staff meet their needs incredibly well. Staff work closely with parents to establish children's care needs, routines and interests from the start. The kind and caring staff settle in and support children superbly quickly. Children make friends easily and develop a growing understanding of the feelings and emotions of others. Their behaviour is exemplary. Staff show they value children's views and opinions and provide them with plenty of choices throughout the day. This supports children's independence skills, and they show a strong sense of belonging.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are eager to join in activities and are confident talkers. They enjoy exploring books in groups and on their own. Children confidently count and use numbers in their play. They use tablet computers and compact disc players effectively to extend their learning. Children play with energy and vigour as they explore the environment freely. They extend their physical development and manage their own risks using an excellent range of equipment outside. Staff are fully responsive to children's learning needs. They support children to gain the key skills they need for their next stages in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474609
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	976761
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Abbotsham and Alwington Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07766 912361

Abbotsham and Alwington Pre-school re-registered in 2014. It operates from The Old School Room and Major's Office in the centre of Abbotsham, in North Devon. It is open Monday to Friday during term time from 9am to 3.30pm. There are six members of staff, all of whom are qualified to level 2 or above. The manager has a level 4 qualification and four staff have a level 3 qualification. The pre-school provides funded early education for three- and four-year-olds.

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