

Inspection date

Previous inspection date

14 April 2016

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 staff know the children well and they plan a range of activities based on their interests to help them make good progress in their learning.
- There is a wide range of equipment and toys to support children's learning.
- Children build close bonds with caring staff, who are responsive to their individual needs. Children behave well and they learn good manners.
- Safeguarding procedures are thorough. Staff have a good knowledge of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures to protect children.
- Staff help children learn about keeping safe. For example, they practise the fire drill and learn about road safety on outings.
- The staff reflect on their practice and value the views of children and parents as part of the self-evaluation process to improve provision.
- Partnerships with parents and others, such as school teachers, are good. Staff share information to complement children's learning at home and in the pre-school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff do not fully engage younger children to enable them to be fully involved, particularly during story time and creative activities.
- The manager's monitoring of staff practice is not fully effective in ensuring that teaching is of a consistently high standard.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure adult-led activities fully engage younger children and help all children to make as much progress as possible
- focus more precisely on the monitoring of teaching to raise expectations of teaching skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play hall and garden.
- The inspector had discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at observation files, tracking systems, the self-evaluation form and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff carry out risk assessments of the environments used by the children and know the procedures to follow to keep them safe and secure. Additional procedures to protect children include rigorous staff recruitment and checking the suitability of staff. The manager has effective routines for monitoring and maintaining good standards across the pre-school. Staff develop their skills through individual meetings and training. For example, following 'treasure basket' training, staff set up an area for children to use their senses while exploring different items. The progress of individual children is closely monitored to identify quickly where they may require extra support or challenge.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The staff know the children well and they plan some worthwhile activities based on the children's individual interests. They carefully observe children as they play, and assess their involvement in activities to help plan their next steps for learning. Children learn to count, and to recognise colours, numbers and shapes. They have fun exploring measurement, for instance, as they fill and empty containers during sand play. Children develop their imagination well. For example, they acted out going on a picnic during role play. Children use technology, such as cash tills and remote-control toys. Planting flowers and beans and going on bug hunts help children to learn about living things.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system is well established and staff support children to settle happily and develop close relationships. Children behave well and they learn to take turns and share. The praise and encouragement of staff help children to develop confidence and self-esteem. Children develop good physical skills. For example, they climb and balance on apparatus and ride and steer tricycles. Children follow good hygiene routines daily and eat healthy snacks. Children enjoy outings in the local community, such as visiting the library, which also supports their literacy skills. They learn about similarities and differences as, for example, they find out about and celebrate festivals such as Holi.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their individual starting points. They build on their good speaking and listening skills as they interact with staff and other children. They learn to recognise letters and words, and to write for a purpose. Staff encourage children to be as independent as possible. For example, children pour drinks, choose and tidy away toys. Staff teach children key skills to prepare them well for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY495178
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1030726
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	21
Name of provider	Buttons Pre Schools Limited
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07973 158368

Buttons@Westend registered in 2015. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm during term time only, offering sessional and all-day care. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs three staff and of these, two hold relevant qualifications to level 3.

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