

Thakeham Pre-School

Thakeham Village Hall, Storrington Road, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex,
RH20 3EF



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

6 May 2016

31 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager demonstrates excellent leadership skills and has driven ongoing improvement with great determination and enthusiasm.
- Staff reflect daily on their practice and ensure learning targets focus firmly on raising children's achievements to a higher level. All children make exceptional progress in their learning and development from their starting points.
- The staff team is committed to and continues to access further training, in order to provide ongoing challenging experiences for all children.
- Staff provide excellent imaginative play experiences for children. They are highly effective in increasing children's sense of curiosity in the activities they provide.
- Staff significantly enhance children's awareness of similarities and difference between themselves and others, such as through a wide range of activities and experiences.
- Staff give a high priority to children with special educational needs. They work exceptionally well in partnership with parents and other professionals, to offer support to those children with specific need.

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 further opportunities for children to enhance their understanding of everyday technology and how things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in a range of activities, inside and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and observed the quality of teaching.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including records of staff suitability checks and children's development records.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Thouless

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Management and staff monitor children's learning to ensure they make excellent progress in all areas of learning. They particularly look at different groups of children and those in need of any extra support, to identify and significantly narrow any gaps in children's learning. For example, they have introduced additional resources to strengthen children's ability to problem solve. Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend safeguarding training and receive consistent supervision to ensure they thoroughly understand their role, such as in child protection, and what to do should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff carry out detailed risk assessments; for example, they involve children extremely well in this process to support their knowledge in keeping safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the experiences that they provide for children. They use highly effective teaching methods and interact exceptionally well with children. For example, they consistently encourage children to solve problems and use their thinking skills, although opportunities to extend further children's interest in exploring technology, including how things operate, are still developing. Staff extend children's mathematical skills well. For example, they talk about quantity, shape and size, while children build and construct. Staff make learning an enjoyable experience. For example, when children notice that the plants need watering, staff identify non-related items too, which leads to lots of giggles and explanations from children, which gives them the confidence to share their views. Children are confident in their literacy development; for example, older children learn to recognise and write their own names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff gain detailed information about children from parents. They successfully use this to tailor the individual support and care they provide. Staff act as good role models for expected behaviours. For example, they are respectful and show they value children's opinion. Children play harmoniously together and enjoy each other's company. Staff provide an extremely well-resourced learning environment. Children are highly motivated in their play, and show a great interest and enthusiasm to learn. For example, during the inspection, children were intrigued as they discovered 'fairy dust' and made mud 'potions'.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are highly active, independent learners who are able to communicate extremely well and concentrate for long periods. They show impressive physical skills; for example, they safely climb trees and move confidently on the rope swing. Children develop exceptional skills for their future learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113754
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	825050
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	22
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Thakeham Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2011
Telephone number	01798 815467

Thakeham Pre-School registered in 1990. It is located in Thakeham, West Sussex. The pre-school opens on Monday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm, on Tuesday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, and on Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12pm. The provider receives funding to offer free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff; of whom, four hold relevant early years qualifications.

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