

The Village Pre-school

Village Hall, Pinfold Lane, Cheslyn Hay, Walsall, West Midlands, WS6 7HP



Inspection date	13 May 2016
Previous inspection date	15 January 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- All staff robustly check all areas, both indoors and outdoors, before the children arrive. This, and staff's vigilance throughout the session, ensures that children are kept safe and well at all times.
- The management, staff, parents and children are all included in the self-evaluation procedures of the pre-school. Targets for further improvement are regularly identified and implemented to improve outcomes for all children. Children are effectively prepared for the next stage in their learning. This includes their readiness for starting school.
- Children demonstrate strong emotional attachments with the staff. Key persons are welcoming and warm with the children throughout the session. They know the children well and spend much of their time working directly with them to support their learning and development.
- The managers and staff demonstrate strong partnerships with parents, as well as other professionals and providers. They ensure the exchange of information between all parties is regular and includes children's care and learning and their developmental progression. Key persons help parents to be confident in supporting their child's continued learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not involve all parents in identifying what their child already knows and can do, in order to ensure the accurate assessment of children's starting points.
- Staff do not always provide enough opportunities for children to build a good awareness of how they differ from, or are similar to, other people.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- involve parents in the assessment of the starting points for their children's learning to help ensure they are as accurate as possible
- increase ways to help children develop a positive view of cultural diversity that reflects the local community and other backgrounds.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the two managers. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of the staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management and staff have refreshed their knowledge on how to safeguard children. The safeguarding policy is regularly shared with all staff during team meetings. As a result, all staff know what to do in the event of an allegation being made against anyone working with the children. Regular coaching and one-to-one meetings are provided for all staff. This includes observing key persons' teaching practice and monitoring children's progress so that any gaps in their learning are quickly closed. All children make good progress in their development across all areas of learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff extend children's thinking skills using a range of questioning techniques. Older children freely explore their environment and gain confidence as they compare size, shape, colour and position at the mathematics table. They also count how many cups and plates they need for their friends at the snack table. Younger children settle in quickly on arrival. They smile and giggle as they follow one another around and engage in home role play. Younger children's learning is enhanced further by staff as they join in their imaginary play, providing demonstration and a running commentary. Children become engrossed in their activities. Their interest in wildlife is fostered very well. Children observe and talk about reptiles, spiders and rabbits that are brought into the pre-school and supervised carefully by the owners. Staff also invite people who help us into the pre-school so that children become familiar with the police, paramedics and firefighters. During such visits, the children learn how to keep themselves safe and how to dial 999 in an emergency.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children talk about the healthy foods they eat at snack times. Daily access to fresh air helps to foster their awareness about having a healthy lifestyle. Children behave well, are learning about rules and demonstrate a high regard for one another. All children develop good physical development as they access the outdoors every day. They take risks in their play as they climb and balance on fixed equipment and ride around on their tricycles. Other children like to investigate the sand as they fill and empty various containers using tools. Staff support children's physical development through praise and encouragement, and consistently foster their 'can do' attitude to their learning.

Outcomes for children are good

All children demonstrate their growing independence and care for their environment as they are all keen to be involved during tidy up times. Children self-register on arrival. These are some of the skills that support children to be ready for school. All children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress in their learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218261
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1036718
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	The Village Playgroup (Cheslyn Hay) Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522544
Date of previous inspection	15 January 2016
Telephone number	01922 4106698

The Village Pre-school opened in 1977. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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