

Willow Tree Pre-School (Cherry Lane)

Cherry Lane Adventure Playground, Cherry Lane, Langley Green, Crawley, West
Sussex, RH11 7NX



Inspection date	25 May 2016
Previous inspection date	9 September 2013

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

- Staff provide a good range of toys and activities for children to choose from independently. Children are motivated, engaged, and make good progress in their learning in relation to their starting points.
- Staff give a high priority to children's emotional development. For example, they work closely with parents to settle children into the group and to meet the individual needs of the children, such as valuing their favourite comforters.
- Children develop very good physical skills. For example, they balance on tree trunks and learn to pedal bikes independently. This is extended further when, for example, children use a range of tools and equipment in the water area and mud kitchen.
- The staff work very well together. They are friendly and approachable and build positive relationships with the children and their families.
- The manager involves the committee, staff, parents and children in the evaluation of the pre-school to identify areas for development. For example, parents give feedback verbally and through questionnaires, and children's ideas are valued and acted upon.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of staff performance does not yet identify precise areas for development to achieve outstanding teaching and challenge for children.
- Children do not always have access to a range of opportunities to develop their mark making and early writing.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve existing performance management arrangements so that the targets for staff focus on helping them to achieve outstanding levels of teaching, to consistently support children to make the best possible progress
- provide further opportunities for children to engage in a variety of mark making and early writing activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to parents and committee members to gain their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policy documents and evidence of staff suitability checks.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The managers work closely together and have clearly identified the strengths of the pre-school as well as ideas for development. For example, they have introduced a new system for recording children's progress and share this with parents. Furthermore, they have evaluated the safety of the outdoor environment during renovation and continue to provide a safe and stimulating outdoor experience for the children. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand their responsibility to protect children and know the process to follow if they have concerns about the children's safety. Staff receive regular training and mentoring to develop their practice. For example, they attend workshops to support children's communication and meet with other settings to share good practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and know when to join in to extend their learning. For example, staff give children clear explanations on how to ride a bike, and they offer new vocabulary, such as 'vanilla', while children make cakes in the mud kitchen. Children develop good mathematical skills. For example, staff encourage them to count backwards during ball games, and children join in enthusiastically with number rhymes. Staff use children's interests well to extend their learning. For example, they sing frog songs while watching the tadpoles and enjoy acting out a favourite animal story. Staff track children's progress effectively to identify their next steps in learning and share this information with parents to help them support their children at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy, settled, and show good levels of self-esteem. For example, an effective key-person approach helps staff to find out about children's individual cultures and home languages. Staff support children to build relationships with each other. For example, they join in with small groups of children to model sharing and turn taking. Staff provide children with opportunities to learn about the world. For example, they make visits in the local community and learn to be gentle when handling insects. Staff teach children about healthy lifestyles, for example, as they involve children in making home-made bread, and children have daily access to fresh air and exercise. Staff are enthusiastic and outgoing and work closely with other agencies. They build effective partnerships to support children who require extra help in the pre-school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for their next stage in learning or their move to school. They develop important skills such as independence and confidence. For example, children manage their own hygiene and learn to take risks outdoors. They understand the rules and boundaries. Children confidently use books to recount and act out favourite stories.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY458640
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1051931
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 - 8
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	69
Name of registered person	Willow Tree Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP530453
Date of previous inspection	9 September 2013
Telephone number	01293 516873

Willow Tree Pre-school - Cherry Lane registered in 2013. The pre-school operates each weekday from 8.45am to 2.45pm, during term time only. It also operates a breakfast club from 8am to 8.45am and an after-school club from 2.45pm to 5.30pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine members of staff, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two of these hold early years professional status.

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