

West St Leonard's Early Years Centre



West St. Leonards CP School, Harley Shute Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex,
TN38 8BX

Inspection date	13 June 2016
Previous inspection date	17 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 good support for children who have special educational needs or disability. Staff work hard to ensure that the care and education are inclusive. They are committed to developing the best outcomes for children through rigorous self-evaluation.
- Children make good progress from their individual starting points. Staff know individual children well and help them to develop and achieve well in all areas of learning.
- Staff maintain a strong focus on developing children's communication and language skills. For instance, they have focused times to develop children's speech and language and support children by using signs. Staff track this development separately so they have an accurate understanding of children's abilities.
- Children have good positive social experiences. For example, children enjoy sitting together and talking with adults and each other at snack time. Children are supported to play well with each other and staff help them to talk about their feelings.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some group activities do not always fully engage and further develop the skills of all children, particularly those who are more active learners.
- Occasionally, routines during the day, such as the transition after lunch, are not managed effectively enough to support the needs of all children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further the use of group activities to ensure that they maximise the learning of all children
- review and improve the organisation of routines so that these support the needs of all children more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching inside and outside, and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation and discussed this with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the nominated person of the committee and the manager. She viewed relevant documentation, such as policies and procedures, and children's learning records.
- The inspector spoke to parents and carers and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Sarah Taylor-Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff know their responsibility to keep children safe and what to do if they have concerns about children's welfare. Staff have good relationships with other professionals to support children's learning and well-being. For example, they use opportunities to learn new activities to improve children's learning and development. The manager and staff review their practice well and include the views of parents and children. The manager supports staff to reflect and help develop each other's practice effectively. For instance, they observe each other and have professional discussions following training. Additional funding is used well to support children's needs. For example, children enjoy additional sessions from external specialists to explore music and dancing and to develop their sports skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations of children's learning effectively to help them plan activities that challenge and motivate children. For example, the older and most-able children enjoy learning about letter sounds and staff introduce basic sums. Children's overall development is monitored well. For example, gaps in learning are identified and staff quickly put plans in place to help support children's development. Younger children, in particular, enjoy sharing stories. For instance, staff help them to join in and predict what could happen next. Staff use a range of good opportunities to support children's mathematical development. For example, they talk to children about how big they need to dig their hole for planting.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children receive positive messages about how to lead healthy lifestyles. For example, they enjoy preparing healthy snacks and playing outside daily. Children are creative and use their knowledge of the world well. For instance, they create large junk-model castles and include details such as turrets, drawbridges and windows. Staff build good relationships with parents and children. For example, staff complete home visits when children first start to help them settle. Children learn how to consider safety, as when staff help them to think about how to use scissors safely and when to let adults use sharper tools.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development and acquire a good range of skills that prepare them well for starting school. Children enjoy making choices throughout the day. For example, younger children are given the opportunity to have quieter play time in smaller groups. Children are confident and ask questions to support their understanding. They are keen to learn and motivated to explore.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511231
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1028455
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	West St Leonards Early Years Centre Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524171
Date of previous inspection	17 June 2013
Telephone number	01424 465669

West St Leonard's Early Years Centre registered in 1998 and is run by a management committee. It is on the site of West St Leonard's Primary Academy in East Sussex. It is open five days a week from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. There are 10 members of staff, eight of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds a relevant early years degree. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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