

Willow Tree Nursery

2 Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 9AA



Inspection date

31 August 2016

Previous inspection date

10 December 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

- Children make good progress in their development. They gain the physical, social and communication skills needed to move on to school or the next stage of learning.
- Staff test children's thinking skills and offer a range of opportunities to build on their existing abilities. Staff observe and assess children well overall and keep parents informed of their progress.
- The management team monitors staff practice and has made improvements to the quality of teaching since their last inspection. Managers closely monitor children's progress and continually develop staff skills and knowledge to improve teaching.
- Staff make good use of the play spaces to offer children interesting and thought-provoking activities. Children are confident learners who have developed close bonds with the staff.
- Children behave well and enjoy completing small tasks independently. They have a good understanding of safety and learn to manage their own care routines.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Assessments of children's learning are not always as precise as possible. Children do not always receive the highest levels of challenge to further develop their learning.
- Staff do not always successfully share precise information with all those involved in children's learning. They do not always follow up on their strategies to make sure partnerships are as effective as possible in encouraging children's development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more precise assessments of children's development, to help achieve higher expectations of their learning
- improve the quality of information shared with parents and others so children receive the best possible support from everyone involved in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children during daily play routines.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and the manager observed and evaluated a planned activity together.
- The inspector held a meeting with the senior management team.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and procedures and children's records.

Inspector

Victoria Frost

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team uses training well to develop staff skills. Leaders use effective methods to monitor the quality of teaching and to set improvements. For example, the manager observes staff interactions with children and uses this when appraising their practice. The manager takes account of the views of parents, staff and children to help evaluate the provision. For example, improvements to the garden have been developed based on parents' feedback. Safeguarding is effective. The manager makes sure staff understand local child protection procedures and staff know what to do if they are concerned for children's safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan activities that reflect children's interests and stages of development. They tailor learning opportunities to the individual learning needs of all children. Staff ask questions and offer clear explanations to improve children's understanding. For example, children participated in a simple science experiment, where staff explained what was happening and then tested their ability to recall what they had learned afterwards. Staff make good use of resources to extend children's understanding of the world. For example, they effectively teach children about volcanoes and the effect of these on the environment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and express themselves freely. They speak very fondly of the staff and their friends. Children show strong levels of independence. For example, they participate in routine activities, such as preparing the dinner table, and help one another into their dressing-up clothes. Staff are good role models and manage children's behaviour well. For example, they help children to negotiate and take turns in activities, or teach them how to work together to achieve a desired outcome. Staff raise children's awareness of the differences between people and help them to celebrate what makes them unique.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who learn English as an additional language, develop strong communication skills. For example, they ask questions and listen effectively to others in discussions. Children develop good coordination skills and learn how to use tools effectively. They learn about living things and how to take care of them. For example, they carefully catch insects in pots and handle them well. Children use mathematical language and enjoy problem solving. For instance, children use timers and the language to describe time as they engage in pretend play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116736
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1061256
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Countryside Nurseries LLP Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP521162
Date of previous inspection	10 December 2013
Telephone number	01628 533445

Willow Tree Nursery registered in 1995. It is on the site of Carrington Junior School, Flackwell Heath, in Buckinghamshire. The nursery is open for 51 weeks a year, from 7.45 am to 6pm, each weekday. The provider employs six staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications. Of these, three staff hold qualifications at level 3 and two staff hold qualifications at level 6. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four years.

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