

Chipmonks Pre-school Limited

Monkston Community Centre, St. Bartholomews, Monkston, Milton Keynes, MK10 9FJ



Inspection date	17 October 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- The provider has developed thorough systems for assessing children's progress and evaluating the quality of the provision. She uses these well to identify children who need further support and to plan and make further improvements to children's overall experience at pre-school.
- Staff build warm partnerships with parents and provide a range of useful resources and ideas to enable parents to support children's learning at home.
- Staff organise an interesting range of activities and resources for children to explore, indoors and outdoors. They provide plenty of opportunities for children to make choices about what to do and where to play and learn. Children make good progress.
- Children settle well and enjoy their time at pre-school. Staff give plenty of praise and a consistent message about acceptable behaviour.
- Staff successfully encourage children's interest in a healthy lifestyle. For example, they teach children about healthy choices and portion sizes at mealtimes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the best use of opportunities to extend learning and understanding for children who prefer to play and learn energetically.
- Staff do not organise the end of some sessions well. For example, staff focus more on ensuring the room is tidy than on teaching the children and sometimes interrupt focused learning activities to hand out coats and bags.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to extend learning and teach new skills to children who prefer to learn through active and energetic play
- improve the organisation of the day to ensure that children's learning is not unnecessarily interrupted and better use is made of daily routines to teach children new skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector talked to staff about their understanding of safeguarding and first aid.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff qualifications, the children's records and the provider's policies.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider and the manager provide effective leadership. They lead the staff well to make improvements to aspects of the provision, such as developing the opportunities for children to increase their mathematical skills. Since her appointment, the manager has established a range of opportunities for staff to discuss their performance and further develop their teaching skills. The manager builds useful partnerships with other professionals; both to support individual children and improve staff knowledge and skills. For example, staff improved opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills, following a meeting with staff at neighbouring schools. Safeguarding is effective. The provider takes the necessary steps to ensure those she employs are suitable and that all staff know what steps to take if they are concerned to protect a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff use their thorough assessments of children's developing skills to plan activities and experiences that will help them make further progress. They guide children's learning well. Staff use their improved knowledge from training to develop what they do. For example, they successfully encourage children to follow their own natural curiosity as they explore the 'mud kitchen'. Staff ensure children have plenty of opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills, for example, through planning cosy 'story times'. They provide a wide range of opportunities to encourage children to incorporate early writing into their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work well to help children feel confident and secure about starting pre-school. For example, they learn words and phrases in children's home language and children are provided with reassurance and support from consistent members of staff. Children develop the confidence to make choices about what to do and where to play. They develop a positive view of the diverse world in which they live and have plenty of opportunities to celebrate different festivals from their own and other people's cultures.

Outcomes for children are good

Children acquire a good set of skills in preparation for their future learning. They learn to make friends and play cooperatively, how to ask questions and listen to the answers. They develop the physical skills needed for later writing. For example, children enjoy playing 'finger football' to develop their grip and hand muscles. They learn to handle books correctly and to count and identify numbers. Children develop skills that help them manage the move to school successfully. For example, they learn to manage their own personal hygiene and to dress and undress independently.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478895
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	980231
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	43
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Chipmonks Pre school Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533770
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07903094256

Chipmonks Pre-school registered in 2014 and is situated in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. It operates from 8am to 2.45 pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide free early years education to children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs 12 members of staff. The provider holds early years professional status and eight other members of staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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