

Sunbeams Pre-school

The Summerhouse, Marden Vale Academy, William Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9BD



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

6 January 2017

3 April 2014

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

- Managers support the professional development of staff well. For example, they observe staff and hold individual meetings that help to improve practice and teaching skills. The quality of teaching is good overall.
- Children have fun at this friendly pre-school. They explore exciting spaces and choose from a wide variety of interesting and challenging activities. Children are keen to learn.
- Staff monitor children's development accurately. They tailor activities so that every child makes good progress, including those at risk of falling behind and the most able.
- Staff teach the basics well. Children learn to play with others, manage their feelings and behave well. A strong focus on developing children's speaking skills has been very successful.
- Staff work closely with parents, sharing information and keeping them well informed of their children's progress. Staff provide workshops, helpful advice and activities that enable parents to better support their children's learning and development at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not recognise opportunities that arise to support children to develop their own play and ideas.
- Some group activities do not engage younger children and they become distracted and unsettled.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- target support and guidance even more precisely for staff to help them encourage children to develop their own play and ideas more effectively
- review the organisation of some large group activities to more fully include the youngest children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed and spoke with staff and children during indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and discussed how the management team monitors and develops the quality of teaching.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents, including evidence of staff suitability, policies, the self-evaluation record, children's records and tracking of children's progress.
- The inspector took account of parents' comments, from speaking with several during the inspection and from parents' questionnaires gathered by the pre-school.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, including safeguarding arrangements, monitoring and plans for improvement.

Inspector

Rachel Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are vigilant in reporting concerns and the manager works closely with appropriate agencies to help protect children. Managers use feedback from staff, children and parents when deciding what improvements to make. They make good use of information about children's progress to make changes to the curriculum where gaps in learning are identified. For example, staff have created quiet areas to encourage conversations about emotions, which have helped children manage their feelings. Good links with the host school help prepare children well for moving on.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff target support for children's speech and social skills very well using a range of effective strategies. For example, they routinely use hand sign language and picture cards to reinforce what they are saying. This is especially helpful for children with speech difficulties and those learning English as an additional language. Daily group activities help children gain useful listening skills in readiness for reading. Staff play alongside children, generally supporting their learning well. They make very good use of daily routines to extend all areas of children's learning. For example, children count and match written numerals when collecting eggs, and finding the right number of cups and plates for snack time. Well-resourced outside areas benefit all children, especially those who learn better outside.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form close relationships with the staff who create a welcoming and playful atmosphere. Children settle quickly and grow in confidence. Staff give children a high level of individual attention and teach good social skills from the start. Children enjoy playing outside for much of the day, where staff help them to learn how to use the large play equipment safely. Children learn a great deal about healthy living. They grow and eat their own fruit and vegetables and thoroughly enjoy caring for the chickens and collecting eggs. Children understand the importance of good hygiene and remind visitors to use hand gel after feeding the chickens.

Outcomes for children are good

Children show confidence and ability in managing many of their own needs. For example, they require little help to put on boots and coats. Children love stories. Older children hear sounds in words and begin to link them to letters. They enjoy having a go at writing, such as marking off jobs on the 'chicken check list' or taking their own register. They use numbers and shapes as they play; for example, older children share out bricks evenly. Children are keen, inquisitive learners and are well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	199434
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	1068579
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	42
Number of children on roll	53
Name of registered person	Sunbeams Pre-school Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904813
Date of previous inspection	3 April 2014
Telephone number	01249 816987

Sunbeams Pre-school registered in 1992. It operates from the grounds of Marden Vale Academy in Calne, Wiltshire. The pre-school is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am until 3pm and on Thursdays from 9am until midday, during school term times only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 13 staff members who work directly with the children. The manager holds a qualification at level 4 and the remaining staff hold qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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