

The Avenue Children's Centre

7 The Avenue, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 9AA



Inspection date

14 February 2017

Previous inspection date

6 October 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

- Staff work effectively to ensure babies and children are happy, settled and feel secure. They provide good support for children's physical and emotional needs. For example, they follow babies' routines, making sure they sleep, eat and have their nappy changed according to their individual needs by familiar staff.
- Staff make regular observations of children's development and use them well to know children's abilities and how to plan to support their next stages of learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children behave well. Staff provide good role models and help older children understand their feelings and begin to manage their behaviour themselves.
- Staff work effectively with parents and other early years settings that children attend. They exchange good information to consistently support children's learning and care.
- The manager evaluates the quality of the provision well to make improvements. For example, they are using a new system to track children's overall development. This now provides more extensive information about how different groups of children progress. The manager can identify much more effectively where additional support is required to help children catch up quickly.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Not all staff engage older children fully in their imaginative play to extend their ideas.
- Staff miss opportunities to help children learn more about the natural world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support all staff more to consistently encourage older children's imaginative play
- help children to notice similarities and differences in the natural world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff, parents and children and took account of the setting's self-evaluation systems.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy manager, and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the safety of the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff know the procedures to follow to report any concerns and protect children from harm. Staff receive training to deal with children's specialist medical care. The manager and deputy manager provide good support and training for staff to know their roles and responsibilities. Staff have regular opportunities to extend their professional development and improve outcomes for children. For example, following training, staff in the toddler room now focus more on keeping two-year-olds active and engaged, following their own interests. Since the last inspection, staff now provide a wider variety of resources for children to practise making marks and develop their early writing skills. They also enable children to serve themselves at snack time, to gain greater independence in managing age-appropriate tasks.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff challenge older children well in their mathematical development. For example, when children manage an easy puzzle by looking at the shapes, staff get them a more challenging one to match numerals. Staff support children well to learn through trial and error, and extend their understanding. For example, they help them to see which size cars will go down a ramp and which are too big. Staff provide good support for babies' physical development. For example, they encourage those learning to walk to practise taking steps, climb with confidence and move around furniture. Staff demonstrate how to use equipment and give babies time to use it for themselves, such as pop-up toys.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The special educational needs coordinator provides good support so that staff can meet children's individual needs well. Staff make good use of resources. For example, they engage babies' attention in songs using puppets. Babies enjoy the experience and show delight, excitement and concern for the actions of the puppets. Staff provide effective reassurance for children when required, so children are confident to explore and investigate resources for themselves. Children gain a good understanding of keeping safe and healthy. For example, staff use books to talk about dental hygiene and this leads to a discussion about biting not being nice and how it hurts others. Children enjoy freshly cooked, healthy meals and drink plenty of water.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills in preparation for their next stages of learning. For example, older children are confident to get themselves a chair and join others having a story. They explore resources confidently to find out what they can do with them and find out about the world. Children become confident communicators and follow instructions well. Older children learn to take turns and understand why it is important to listen.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY294025
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	1070620
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	The Avenue Primary School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP525022
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2014
Telephone number	01985 214413

The Avenue Children's Centre is located within the Avenue School in Warminster. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm throughout the year, apart from two weeks at Christmas. There are 15 members of staff who work with the children. Of these, two hold an early years qualification at level 4, seven hold a level 3, three hold a level 2 and, of the three unqualified staff, two are working towards a qualification. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two years.

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