

Creech St Michael Community Pre-School

Creech St. Michael C E V C Primary School, Creech St. Michael, Taunton, Somerset,
TA3 5QQ



Inspection date	22 February 2017
Previous inspection date	11 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Rigorous self-evaluation helps management very successfully to prioritise improvements that have the most impact on children's learning, to ensure excellent quality outcomes. For example, management and staff have made significant improvements to the outdoor area, providing an exciting space where children have excellent opportunities to develop their mathematical and early writing skills.
- Children make excellent progress from their starting points. Staff very successfully involve parents in their children's learning, and systems to share information are extremely effective. For example, parents routinely inform staff of children's learning at home, which staff use very well in children's assessments and planning for their next steps.
- Children are extremely well behaved. They have excellent self-esteem and show very high levels of emotional security. Children are consistently kind and caring, and they show great tolerance and understanding of each other's differences. Staff are excellent role models for children. They provide a very calm and happy environment, where children are listened to and respected.
- Children who have special educational needs receive excellent support to ensure that they make the best possible progress. Staff work extremely closely with other professionals, including other early years providers, to make sure individual learning plans are consistent between settings.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop outdoor learning opportunities that encourage children to express themselves through music.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager, staff, members of the management committee, parents and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of a planned activity with the manager.
- The inspector sampled required documentation, including safeguarding procedures, and spoke to staff about how effectively they implement these.
- The inspector reviewed systems of observation, assessment and planning to assess the effectiveness of these in monitoring children's progress in learning.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The committee values the manager's and staff's skills and experience very much, and supports them extremely well to develop these even further. For example, training in how children develop emotional resilience raised staff's awareness of how body language can indicate a lack of confidence in some situations. The manager and staff refined their observations to focus more closely on children's social confidence and build on this when planning. The manager's excellent monitoring of the learning programme clearly identifies any gaps in children's learning, which staff quickly address. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures to protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their excellent child development knowledge to plan highly challenging and exciting activities. Children are keen and eager participants. For example, they thoroughly enjoyed learning about aquatic creatures. Staff supported them very well to talk about their habitats and encouraged them to move like penguins, crabs and seahorses. Staff challenged older children extremely well through discussion. For example, children talked about a manatee living in the water but breathing air, like whales. Staff make excellent use of spontaneous learning opportunities. For example, children checked their cress seeds and worked out that the biggest shoots were those planted first. Staff extended this extremely well, asking whether the same rules apply to people, engaging children to consider whether 'oldest' always meant 'biggest'. Children enjoy being creative, but have few opportunities to express themselves through music outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's health awareness is extremely good. For example, they understand the importance of a well-balanced diet and have a very good knowledge about suitable portion sizes; they talked of having a piece of cheese the same size as a small building brick as being a healthy amount. Children show excellent safety awareness and undertake their own risk assessments. For example, before they went outside, they told staff that the climbing apparatus was likely to still be wet and too slippery to climb safely. When outside, they checked and confirmed that they did not think they should use it yet.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children develop extremely good skills that prepare them very well for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. Children are extremely independent. They make decisions for themselves and confidently explain why. For example, some children took their coats off when outside, telling staff that they were too hot while running but will put them on again once they have cooled down.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142861
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1070336
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Creech St Michael Community Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522265
Date of previous inspection	11 September 2014
Telephone number	01823 444860

Creech St Michael Community Pre-School is run by a parent committee. It registered in 2007. It operates within the grounds of Creech St Michael Primary School, in the village of Creech St Michael, on the outskirts of Taunton. The setting is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm during term times. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are seven members of staff employed to work with children. Of these, five have level 3 early years qualifications, one has a level 2 qualification, and one is near completion at a level 2.

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