

Abbey Centre Pre-School

Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 0RZ



Inspection date

13 June 2017

Previous inspection date

12 May 2015

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

- The experienced managers and their team of staff are dedicated and enthusiastic. They are committed to providing children with a safe and secure environment in which they can learn and develop.
- The managers constantly reflect upon their practice. They take into account the views of children, parents and staff in order to assist them in identifying areas for development.
- Staff have established very effective partnerships with parents, to meet children's needs. They help to ensure that children's learning continues at home.
- Staff have high expectations of what all children can achieve. They understand the process through which children learn and provide lots of opportunities for children to direct their own learning and progress well.
- Staff closely observe children as they play. This helps them to make accurate assessments of children's current developmental stages and to plan appropriate next steps in their learning.
- Children behave very well at the pre-school. Staff encourage them to be polite, courteous, to take turns and to share their toys.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The support for the ongoing professional development of all staff is not consistently rigorous enough to raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the arrangements for identifying and addressing the professional development needs of staff so that an outstanding level of teaching is achieved throughout the pre-school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities inside and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ann Lee

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know what to do if they have any concerns over the welfare and safety of a child in their care. Furthermore, they keep their knowledge updated regularly. Children are very well supervised at all times both inside and outdoors. Policies, procedures and risk assessments underpin the smooth management of the provision. Recruitment of staff is effective and the provider makes committee members known to Ofsted. Staff receive regular support to ensure that they remain suitable to be working with children. They have implemented procedures to analyse and encourage the progress of different groups of children. Staff form strong partnerships with outside agencies to help close any gaps in children's learning. The partnerships with schools help to ensure smooth transitions for all children. Parents speak positively about their children's care and progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a natural ability to interact effectively with children. Children delight in telling staff that the play cooker is too hot for their pretend cookies to go in. Staff suggest that they turn the switch on the side to make the temperature cooler. They support children who speak English as an additional language very well. Staff calmly offer commentary to their play and sensitively introduce new words to broaden their vocabulary. They use small-group activities as one way to help children develop their confidence in speaking. Carefully planned activities offer opportunities for children to investigate and experiment and staff continually encourage children's early mathematical development. For instance, they talk about volume and capacity as children play in the sand.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop good levels of independence. Staff encourage them to do things for themselves. Children are able to decide where to play and what to play with as resources both inside and outdoors are easy to reach and freely available. Children learn the importance of developing healthy lifestyles. They have lots of opportunities to play in the fresh air and enjoy nutritious snacks. Staff work with parents to consider the contents of their children's lunch boxes. Children enjoy outings within their local environment. This helps them to gain an understanding of the world beyond the pre-school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their initial starting points. Children enjoy experimenting and being creative; for example, as they have fun discovering herbs that have been hidden in blocks of ice. They decide that they need the support of the toy dinosaurs to help them break up the ice. They are acquiring key skills to help prepare them for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220151
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1090060
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Abbey Centre Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901755
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2015
Telephone number	01604 767568 or 07980 092175

Abbey Centre Pre-School registered in 1987. It employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds early years professional status. The pre-school opens only during term time from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 9.15am to 2.45pm. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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