

The Roundhill Academy Pre-School

997 Melton Road, Thurmaston, LEICESTER, LE4 8GQ



Inspection date

14 June 2017

Previous inspection date

22 January 2013

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 qualified and well-established staff team provide a calm, caring and stimulating environment. They have a very good knowledge and understanding of each child. Staff provide a broad range of exciting activities and experiences based on children's individual interests and learning needs. Children make good progress.
- Staff work closely with other agencies and professionals to meet the individual needs of children. They implement effective strategies to ensure that children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive the support they need.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. Staff ensure that they keep parents well informed and involved in their children's learning. They provide comprehensive support and ideas for parents so that they can build further on children's learning at home.
- Children are confident and form strong relationships with their key person. They are settled, secure and ready to learn.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes the organisation of the daily routine reduces the opportunities for children to access the outdoor play area. This means that children who prefer to learn outdoors do not always have extensive opportunities to explore all areas of learning.
- Existing systems for self-evaluation do not yet clearly prioritise actions and improvements that have the most impact on the outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reconsider the organisation of the daily routine, to provide greater opportunities for children to extend their learning outdoors
- strengthen self-evaluation systems to more precisely identify and prioritise areas for improvement and measure the impact on outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside. She evaluated staff's assessment of children's progress and how they plan for children's next steps in learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies, children's records and suitability checks for staff.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Claire Jenner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and wider safeguarding issues. They know what action to take if they are concerned about the welfare of a child in their care. Staff are deployed effectively to help keep children safe. Managers and staff work well together as a team and value each other's skills. They meet regularly to share areas of expertise and good practice. Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff are robust and help to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Managers and staff accurately check the progress children make. They are proactive in identifying gaps in learning and intervene quickly to offer extra support if needed, to help children catch up.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively monitor and assess individual children's progress. They accurately identify and plan for their next steps in learning. Staff use good teaching techniques. For example, they use clear speech, eye contact and expressions to help extend children's communication and language skills. They encourage children to contribute during circle time. Staff listen carefully to what children have to say and encourage them to join in with letters, sounds, stories and songs. Staff introduce mathematical language and concepts into children's play. Children mould dough into balls, place them in size order and count how many they have. They enjoy being creative and have access to a wide range of materials and media. Children enjoy working together to make a rainbow caravan for the role-play area.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The pre-school environment is relaxed and happy. Staff are good role models and children behave well. They learn to share, take turns and respect one another. Staff work well with parents to gather detailed information about children's needs and interests. Children settle quickly. Effective partnerships with other settings, such as local schools, help to ensure that children benefit from a smooth transition when it is time for them to move on. Children develop a good understanding of healthy practices through everyday routines and activities. They know to wash their hands before eating. Children are encouraged to make healthy food choices and help themselves to water when thirsty.

Outcomes for children are good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the welcoming pre-school. They are making good progress and developing key skills which prepare them well for their future learning. Children are independent and self-assured. They carry out simple tasks for themselves, including changing from their indoor shoes to outdoor shoes and helping to tidy up after themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY451258
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1066168
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	26
Number of children on roll	69
Name of registered person	The Roundhill Academy
Registered person unique reference number	RP903497
Date of previous inspection	22 January 2013
Telephone number	0116 269 8389

The Roundhill Academy Pre-School first opened in 1974. It is affiliated to Roundhill Academy in Thurmaston, Leicestershire and re-registered in 2012. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday term time only, from 9am to 4pm. Sessions are from 9am to midday, from 1pm to 4pm and from 9am to 4pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two- three- and four-year old children.

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