

Apple Tree Nursery and Pre-School

Yenton Primary School, Chester Road, Erdington, BIRMINGHAM, B24 0ED



Inspection date

22 June 2017

Previous inspection date

6 March 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 well-qualified staff team has a strong knowledge of how children learn and develop. Staff know the children well. They make regular and precise assessments of their learning. Children play and learn in an extremely stimulating environment, both indoors and outdoors. They are highly motivated and busy learners as they explore new experiences.
- An effective key-person system ensures that children form close relationships with the staff. Staff are responsive to children's needs. They place a good emphasis on developing children's emotional well-being.
- The provider demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the quality of the provision. Self-evaluation is ongoing and identifies the areas for improvement within the provision to continue raising outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- During discussions, some staff do not always allow enough time for children to consider their responses to questions. They occasionally do not make the most of opportunities to further develop children's vocabulary and critical thinking.
- Staff's professional development is not yet specifically focused on raising the quality of the 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 teaching skills that support children to build as far as possible on their communication and thinking skills
- sharpen the focus of staff's professional development in order to raise the good quality teaching to the next level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff, training certificates and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jennifer Turner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a good knowledge of the signs to look out for and procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The provider implements rigorous recruitment and induction procedures to help ensure the suitability of staff. Parents have a strong voice at the nursery and they speak highly of the staff. The provider uses an effective system to share information with parents. They know when action is needed to narrow any gaps in children's learning in order to support their readiness for school. The provider has good procedures in place to monitor the quality of practice. She carries out regular supervision meetings and staff observe each other's practice and offer feedback. Specific plans are made to support children in receipt of the early years pupil premium, such as employing additional staff for one-to-one support.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a broad range of interesting activities based on children's interests and skills. This results in the high engagement of children in activities. Children access resources independently to create their own play and staff provide structured activities, offering a balanced approach to children's learning. Children are happy, self-assured and confident learners who enjoy their time at the welcoming and nurturing setting. The playroom is organised very thoughtfully to promote choice and good independence skills, and children choose to play outdoors whenever they want. Children enjoy playing with dinosaur figures and enthusiastically pretend to be pirates, princesses and firefighters. All children use their imagination extremely well. They use foam bricks to build walls, pasting them with shaving foam as mortar to fix them together. Children work out that adding more foam will help the bricks to stick together better.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children build very strong bonds with staff, who get to know their key children extremely well. Staff consistently value children's efforts and contributions. Staff offer a precise amount of guidance and support so that children quickly become empowered to do things for themselves. Children are remarkably independent in care routines. They spread cheese on their bread, pour their own water and serve their own food. Children's physical development is enhanced as they play outside on wheeled toys and practise their balancing skills as they walk across tyres and wooden planks. Children have an exceptional understanding of their own safety and know they must be careful when riding the bicycles around. Children manage their personal care needs well and enjoy healthy snacks and a cooked, nutritious lunchtime meal. Children's behaviour is good.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress in relation to their starting points and those in receipt of the additional funding and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities make particularly good progress. Children's literacy and mathematical skills develop very well and they match numbers to the correct symbols. They develop good listening skills, practise writing their name and begin to link letters to the sounds they represent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457316
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	1095410
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Alison Margaret Richards
Registered person unique reference number	RP515393
Date of previous inspection	6 March 2015
Telephone number	01214648533

Apple Tree Nursery and Pre-School registered in 2013. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 or level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 4pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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