

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre

2 Valley Road, Wattisham Airfield, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7RE



Inspection date

19 September 2017

Previous inspection date

31 March 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

- Senior staff are ambitious and have a strong drive to provide the highest quality provision. They introduce meaningful ways of evaluating the nursery, actively involving staff and parents in looking for ways to improve.
- Children are very active and enthusiastic learners. They are keen to explore the wide range of stimulating activities provided. Children are eager to share their discoveries with staff and each other.
- Staff place a high priority on promoting children's language and communication skills. They use a good range of strategies to help extend children's vocabulary. Staff attend a range of relevant training to extend their knowledge and skills, such as to develop further their understanding of teaching children phonics.
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive high levels of coordinated support to help close any gaps in their learning.
- Staff work closely with parents to help children settle and become confident in the nursery. Children develop close attachments to their key person. Parents are highly complimentary about the staff and the care and support they provide.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Systems for monitoring the quality of teaching are not yet highly effective. Staff do not always receive precise feedback on how they can raise the quality of their teaching to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring of practice and provide all staff with more effective feedback on how they can provide children with higher levels of challenge to promote their more rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to children, staff and committee members during the inspection.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures all staff have a very good knowledge of child protection issues. For example, she sets quizzes during staff meetings to test their knowledge of the action to take if they are concerned a child is at risk of harm. The manager ensures parents' views are sought and acted upon. She recently created a display informing parents of the changes made in light of their responses to her questionnaire. The nursery supports children's move on to other settings or school. For example, the manager gathers information from other settings so staff can create laminated books to help children learn what to expect at their new setting. The manager monitors the progress of different groups of children and targets any identified gaps in children's learning or the curriculum.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff join in with children's play to extend their interest and enjoyment. They introduce different resources to promote children's enthusiasm for learning. For example, staff hide plastic bugs in the outdoor area for children to hunt using torches. Children of all ages enjoy their favourite stories. They listen with interest and enjoy predicting what will happen next. Staff introduce mathematics into children's play to extend their understanding of numbers, such as while children pretend to play shops. Staff accurately assess children's individual stage of development and plan relevant activities to promote their progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children can choose to spend a lot of their time playing outdoors. They play together cooperatively and share their ideas, such as to wrap the dolls in towels after they have bathed them in the water tray. Staff encourage babies to practise their developing physical skills. They use sensitive praise and encouragement to help children develop confidence in their own abilities. Parents praise the thoughtfulness of key persons, such as the innovative resources developed by a key person to dispel simple childhood fears. Children are cared for by age in well-resourced rooms. The layout of the nursery enables them to play with children of different ages if they wish. Children have meaningful opportunities to learn about the differences and similarities in each other's lives.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the key skills to support the next stage of learning and eventual move to school. For example, they demonstrate their understanding of how things work, explaining to staff why one of the torches will not work. Children's personal, social and emotional development are developing particularly well. They become confident and self-assured from a young age. They learn to take responsibility for simple tasks, such as sweeping up some oats that they have spilt on the floor. Children develop independence. For example, older children serve their own vegetables at lunchtime. Children preparing to move into the toddler room learn to drink from a cup without a lid.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251707
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1087712
Type of provision	Full-time 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	52
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908443
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2014
Telephone number	01449 728928

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre registered in 1993 and is managed by a voluntary committee. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 38 weeks of the year. It also offers provision during school holidays dependent upon demand. The nursery provides funding for early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 14 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6.

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