

Willow Tree Kindergarten

St Werburghs Hall, Jack Brimble Centre Lynmouth Road, Bristol, Avon, BS2 9YH



Inspection date

21 September 2017

Previous inspection date

15 September 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

- The manager has created effective systems of monitoring children's development, which supports staff to identify gaps in learning and target teaching precisely. The manager has extended her tracking to include different groups of learners, to ensure all children make progress from their starting points.
- Staff support children's emotional well-being successfully, such as by responding affectionately when children seek comfort and reassurance. Staff support children's understanding effectively, for example, by providing clarification when children ask the meaning of words in stories.
- Staff provide an exciting range of activities for children of all ages to explore. Activities challenge children in all areas of learning effectively and children explore these with motivation and confidence. For example, they enjoy learning how to sew mittens and use tools to build and mend broken resources.
- Staff support children to make good progress. Children, including those who have special educational needs, are well prepared for the next stages in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not provide clear and consistent support to develop children's understanding of behaviour expectations.
- Staff miss opportunities to extend children's independence and self-care skills fully, particularly at mealtimes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with consistent support to reinforce their understanding of rules and behaviour expectations
- develop even more opportunities for children to gain independence and extend their self-care skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and observed the quality of teaching and staff interactions with children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff and children's records, policies and procedures, and evidence of staff suitability to work with children.
- The inspector observed and interacted with the children in the inside and outside environments.

Inspector

Kayleigh Fletcher

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff understand their responsibility to keep children safe and can identify signs that would cause concern about a child's welfare. Staff encourage children to assess small risks independently. For example, children have developed a system to help keep themselves safe on the swing. The manager implements effective recruitment procedures to ensure that staff working with children are suitable. The manager is committed to the professional development of staff and manages their performance well. For example, she implements positive systems of supervision and staff meetings. Staff liaise successfully with other professionals to offer a consistent approach to children's learning. For example, they follow recommendations from physiotherapists to support children's physical development. The manager evaluates the service well and identifies areas for improvement, such as to create links with the community to teach children about their surroundings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff implement effective systems to assess children's learning. Staff get to know children's interests well and plan activities based on what they know children enjoy. Staff support children to learn about the world around them and be respectful of different cultures and religions. For example, children take part in lantern walks to learn about celebrating a festival. Staff develop strong relationships with parents and update them about children's learning. Parents receive a detailed report about their children's progress and attend meetings throughout the year. Staff encourage parents to be part of life at the setting. For example, parents sing to the children in other languages and staff provide workshops about specific topics, such as internet safety, to help parents provide a consistent approach at home. Staff extend children's language and understanding by modelling new vocabulary and phrases.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide healthy and nutritious snacks for children, to support their health and well-being effectively. Staff support children to develop social skills. For example, they ensure mealtimes are sociable and encourage children to engage in conversations with others. Staff support children to learn to take turns with others through enjoyable and engaging activities, such as baking or games. Children participate in a variety of songs and express themselves in their play.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are imaginative and creative learners. They develop perseverance. For example, children are motivated and engaged as they make resources for their own puppet show. Children develop self-confidence and strong communication skills. They learn to meet their own hygiene needs and develop small physical skills, such as holding and using tools appropriately.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY403389
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	1071227
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 6
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Willow Tree Steiner School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP529435
Date of previous inspection	15 September 2014
Telephone number	07538 468294

Willow Tree Kindergarten registered in 2009. The kindergarten operates in St Werburghs, Bristol. The kindergarten is a member of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship and follows this philosophy for early years. The kindergarten operates during term time only and is open each week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8.30am to 3.30pm and on Tuesday and Friday from 8.30am to 12.30pm. The kindergarten is in receipt of early education funding for children aged three and four years. The kindergarten employs six staff including the manager, four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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