

The Friary Pre-School

Chapter House, Carmelite Way, Maldon, CM9 5FX



Inspection date	16 October 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children's learning is meticulously planned. Staff share what they know about each child and work exceptionally well as a team. They have a very clear understanding of how they can help each child to flourish. Children make excellent progress.
- Children form very secure emotional attachments to staff. Their well-being and development are very closely monitored, using a wide range of assessment tools. Staff have an excellent knowledge of each child.
- The manager and staff are passionate and strive to deliver the highest quality provision for children and their families. They effectively identify areas to develop further. They implement changes to achieve goals in improvement plans and to continue raising standards.
- Staff provide effective support for children who require additional support. They carefully monitor their development and plan targeted activities to help them make rapid progress.
- Partnerships with outside professionals are excellent. This helps to ensure children experience continuity in their learning and care needs.
- The staff team has exceptional relationships and partnerships with parents which help them to work very effectively together. Parents speak extremely highly of the pre-school, the staff team and the service they provide.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement existing plans to enhance the excellent links with the local community that supports children's understanding of the wider world.

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 of staff practice with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with children during the inspection.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are vigilant. The manager ensures staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures and child protection issues. The manager leads a strong and experienced team. Together they evaluate the pre-school enthusiastically and continually make very effective improvements. They have exciting ideas and are working with others to put plans in motion to help them to enhance their links with the local community even further. This is to ensure that the excellent standard of educational programmes is maintained. The manager plans efficient training and supervision meetings to help all staff to perform well. Management and staff have an excellent understanding of the learning and development requirements. Monitoring of children's learning and development is accurate and precise, and meticulously tracks the progress of individual children and groups of children. Any gaps in learning are then swiftly identified and addressed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is inspirational. Staff's enthusiasm and professionalism is evident in the extremely high-quality activities they provide. Assessments are meticulous and precise, and ensure that every child is able to take part in highly challenging activities based on their immediate learning priorities. Staff are highly skilled at supporting children's communication skills. For example, they pronounce words clearly and use lots of descriptive language. This has an excellent impact on the outcomes for those children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are exceptionally happy. They thrive in the extremely welcoming environment and quickly settle at activities. The manager and staff have an exceptional insight and knowledge of each child's background. Families are truly welcomed into the pre-school and as a result, children are confident and feel very secure. Staff are very positive role models. Children learn appropriate ways to behave due to the consistent and skilful interventions made by staff. Children's independence is extremely well promoted from an early age and they follow good hygiene routines. Children relish playing outdoors and being active. Their physical development is extremely well supported as staff help them to work together to create an obstacle course using a range of natural resources.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make consistently high rates of progress and are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education. Children are highly motivated and very eager to join in. They show high levels of curiosity, imagination and concentration.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY491964
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1022545
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Adult Community Learning Maldon
Registered person unique reference number	RP902317
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	033301 32628

The Friary Pre-School registered in 2015. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualifications at level 6 and six at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during school term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm.

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