

Leek Westwood Preschool

Westwood Road, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8DL



Inspection date

15 November 2017

Previous inspection date

26 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

- The pre-school has established a strong and effective leadership and management structure. Leaders are ambitious and communicate high expectations to staff. They have created a reflective culture that is highly focused on continuous improvements and providing high-quality care and learning experiences for children.
- The highly successful partnership between the pre-school staff and school teachers helps to provide children with a seamless move into school. Staff work together to promote continuity in the programmes for literacy and mathematical development. Children develop high levels of interest and understanding in these areas of learning.
- Staff who work with two year old children place a high priority on supporting children's social and emotional development. Staff are sensitive and responsive to children. They give children all the support they need to settle and become confident.
- Staff develop positive relationships with parents. They work particularly well with parents and other professionals to identify and meet the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Parents are complimentary about the provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff who work with children aged two years are less sharply focused on helping children to gain independence in using the toilet.
- The planning of activities does not consistently consider those children who prefer to learn outdoors. This means that children who learn more effectively outdoors do not consistently have the opportunity to learn in this way.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the support given to children aged two years to help them to gain independence in using the toilet
- enhance opportunities for children who prefer to learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at play in both playrooms and the outdoor area. She assessed the quality of interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and staff. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection. She spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team focuses sharply on ensuring all staff have a strong understanding of their responsibility and the confidence to invoke child protection procedures if required. The staff recruitment process includes appropriate steps to recruit suitable, skilled and well-qualified practitioners. Ongoing monitoring of staff includes checks to ensure all adults and staff remain suitable. The management team provides good levels of support and coaching to help staff to be continually effective in meeting children's needs. All necessary steps are taken to keep children safe and secure at all times. The views of staff, children, parents and other professionals are sought and acted upon. Current action plans are well-targeted to further enhance monitoring and the exchange of information with parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff complete regular and accurate assessments, which are shared with parents and help to support children's learning at home. Staff provide a continuous array of new and exciting activities and experiences for children. Activities are based on themes and topics linked to children's interests and experiences. They help children to develop good levels of interest and understanding of the world. Children's learning experiences are further enhanced through weekly dance, nature, literacy and mathematics sessions that are provided by visiting teachers. All staff are skilled and sensitive practitioners. They are very effective in helping children to develop their communication and language skills. They model language well and continually introduce children to new vocabulary.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's well-being is effectively promoted. They receive plenty of praise and encouragement. Younger children learn to share and take turns and older children learn to work as a team and play cooperatively. Children learn to follow safety rules as they play. Children spend time outdoors during the day where they enjoy being active and energetic. They learn to control and move their bodies in creative and imaginative ways. Children develop healthy appetites and learn about healthy foods.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop skills for their next steps in learning and school, when the time comes. Children become motivated learners who learn through having a go and trial and error. Funded two-year-old children learn to play imaginatively and creatively. They initiate their own play and follow their interests. They develop good physical skills as they explore and experiment using all of their senses. They show pride in their achievements, such as when they persist and manage to extract a hidden object in a sock. Older children are eager to demonstrate what they know and understand. They recognise the sounds that different letters represent. They are eager to estimate and make simple calculations using numbers. They are confident to talk in larger groups to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218180
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1087652
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	2 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Leek Westwood Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910020
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2014
Telephone number	01538 714994

Leek Westwood Preschool opened in 1964. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during school term time. Sessions are from 8.45am to 4pm. There is also an Out of School Club. It runs from 7.30am to 9am and from 3.30pm to 6pm, term time only. All of the staff, with the exception of one, have early years qualifications at level 3, 5 or 6.

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