

Willow Childcare Centre

Litchaton Way, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 4RR



Inspection date	17 April 2018
Previous inspection date	21 October 2013

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 management team provides effective support for continuous staff development. It holds regular meetings to involve staff fully in the robust self-evaluation process. Managers and staff reflect well on their effectiveness and successfully identify areas for further development.
- Observation, assessment and planning procedures are rigorous. Managers and staff monitor children's development closely and take effective action to close any gaps in learning. They use additional funding well to increase their resources and support, to benefit children further.
- Managers and staff have positive partnerships with parents, other agencies and providers. They work well together to meet the individual care and learning needs of children with success.
- From the earliest age, children settle well and feel secure in the centre. Managers and staff have a strong focus on children's well-being. They are highly effective in supporting children's overall learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although behaviour management is good overall, managers and staff sometimes miss opportunities to help children have a clearer understanding of how long they need to wait for a turn, and to encourage independent negotiation.
- Managers and staff do not regularly use their available resources consistently well to help younger children fully understand timescales.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase support to children to develop their understanding and self-management in taking turns, to extend children's independence and confidence further
- extend use of available resources to help younger children further in their developing understanding of timescales.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children in each of the group rooms and in outdoor play.
- The inspector held discussions with managers, staff and parents, and spoke to children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the senior manager.
- The inspector read a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector checked required documentation, policies and procedures, including complaints, health and safeguarding.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers ensure that all staff who work at the nursery have a secure knowledge of the safeguarding procedures. Managers and staff are conscientious in their good health and hygiene practices, to effectively promote and protect children's health. Security procedures are vigilant to keep children safe. Managers and staff use training and development opportunities well to improve outcomes for children. For instance, staff gained a greater insight into babies' communication skills. Staff working with older children use new ideas with success to increase children's confidence, communication and literacy skills. Improvements since the last inspection include extensions to outdoor play resources. Current plans are to extend the nursery provision and places available, to meet increased demand.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Managers organise staff well to maintain ratios and effective support for children. They are good role models in their activities, to support the teaching skills of newer staff and students effectively. Staff occupy and engage children well with educational activities and resources. Babies giggle with delight in response to familiar staff. They are keen to copy and 'have a go', such as to spin a carousel and do action rhymes. Staff effectively increase challenges to suit each child's stage of development. For instance, they enable toddlers and older children to explore independently and make interesting discoveries. Younger children show pleasure in sensory play experiences, such as mixing cornflour and water. Older children take great interest in the egg incubator and eagerly anticipate hatchlings. Throughout the nursery staff provide good support to children's communication and language development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have a good knowledge of babies' individual routines, such as how and when they like to sleep. Babies are content as staff nurture them gently and are attentive to their needs. Toddlers, babies and older children develop good social skills. They enjoy being together and have warm relationships. Children respond well to staff and behave well, which effectively helps them to stay safe. For example, older children know that they need safety goggles on when they use the woodwork tools. Babies and children of all ages enjoy frequent outdoor play opportunities. Staff equip the outside areas well to promote all areas of children's development. This is of particular benefit to children who prefer to learn outside. Children enjoy physical exercise, such as climbing and balancing, which develops their good coordination skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Babies and children enjoy being in the centre and have fun as they learn. They are inquisitive and eager to play, which supports their early learning skills well. For example, babies and children show keen interest as they investigate a wide range of play materials. Babies and children are happy and confident to move on, such as to their next group room. Older children become ready to start school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117167
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1061261
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 - 11
Total number of places	108
Number of children on roll	202
Name of registered person	Woodford Schools Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP901960
Date of previous inspection	21 October 2013
Telephone number	01752347170

Willow Childcare Centre first opened in 1996 and re-registered in 2012, managed by the Woodford Schools Trust. It operates from a purpose-built building, with additional provision for the out-of-school club. It is located on the same site as Woodford Primary School in Plympton. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm, all year. There are 41 staff employed to work with the children. Of these, three staff hold early years professional/teacher status, two staff are qualified at level 7, four staff are level 6, 20 are level 3 and eight staff are level 2. The centre receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years.

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