

Queen Eleanor Pre-School

Queen Eleanor Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 8NN



Inspection date

2 May 2018

Previous inspection date

18 June 2015

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

- Children have lots of fun at this welcoming pre-school. They are very keen to come in each morning and quickly become involved in activities. Good relationships between the staff and children are evident. Children show they feel safe and secure in the care of staff.
- The manager has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. She ensures that she is meeting the requirements of the early years foundation stage at all times. She uses a range of policies, procedures and risk assessments to underpin good practice within the pre-school.
- Staff work in partnership with other professionals involved in children's care. They use targeted plans to ensure children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language receive the support they need to make continued good progress from their starting points in learning.
- Staff work well in partnership with parents who are extremely complimentary about the pre-school. They comment that their children have made excellent progress since starting at the pre-school and that they are happy and settled in the care of the experienced and friendly staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, children are not highly supported to listen intently and fully enjoy their conversations. This is because the noise level sometimes becomes too loud.
- Sometimes, staff do not provide the most-able children with enough challenge to extend their knowledge and understanding even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- monitor the effectiveness of the learning environment even more consistently, to enhance opportunities for children to be highly responsive to adults and each other
- provide children with an even greater level of challenge during activities, to further extend their knowledge and understanding.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke to children and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation. She discussed children's progress with the manager, staff and parents. The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had a tour of the areas used. She held meetings with the manager at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff, including qualifications and training certificates. She looked at a selection of policies and documents, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views and opinions.

Inspector

Josie Mapes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff attend regular training to ensure that their knowledge and understanding remains up to date. They are confident to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and know who to contact if they are concerned. Procedures for staff recruitment and induction into the pre-school are robust. The manager carefully maintains the required adult-to-child ratios and staff closely supervise children. The manager monitors the progress of individuals and groups of children well. This helps her to identify any gaps in children's development and put plans into place to close them quickly. The manager has taken on board the recommendations from the previous inspection and works hard to continually improve and develop the pre-school. The manager monitors staff performance effectively. She has regular discussions with staff members, as well as annual appraisals and reviews.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and understand how young children learn and develop. They make accurate observations of children's progress. Children enjoy a wide range of activities and resources which is prepared for them by staff. They enjoy learning how to program an electronic toy. They discuss with staff where they would like the toy to move to on the map. Staff help them to understand how to program the toy in order to move it in the right direction. Staff support children's mathematical development. For example, they encourage them to count the steps along the map and then to think about what direction the toy needs to move in. Staff help children to learn about how things grow. Children have recently planted an apple tree in the pre-school garden and are eagerly awaiting the imminent arrival of apples on its branches.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and play happily with their friends. They behave well and understand the routines of the day, such as group time and lunchtime. Staff are good role models for children and encourage them to help tidy up the resources they have played with. Children have plenty of fresh air and exercise while they are at pre-school. Staff make good provision for children to access the outdoor area in all weathers. On the day of inspection, children confidently put on their wellingtons and rain coats and then had fun splashing in puddles after a heavy rain shower. Staff talk to children about the importance of healthy lifestyles while they are enjoying their packed lunches. They remind them that it is good to have a balance of different foods to stay healthy.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of their learning and development. Children are making particularly good progress in their mathematical development. They confidently name a range of numerals and count to 10. Some children are able to name a range of more complex shapes such as hexagon, octagon and trapezoid. Children are well prepared for school and further learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220162
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1090061
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Ionic Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905768
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2015
Telephone number	01604 761200

Queen Eleanor Pre-School registered in 2001. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, five members of staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one member of staff has early years teacher status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am to midday and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. An optional lunch club operates from midday to 12.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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