

West Dean Pre-School Nursery



West Dean C of E Primary School, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Inspection date	8 May 2018
Previous inspection date	27 April 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

- Staff are well qualified, experienced and enthusiastic. Their calm and positive approach helps to create a nurturing atmosphere where children feel happy, settled and relaxed. Children form close bonds with staff and very much enjoy their time at the pre-school.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff keep them fully informed and successfully involve them in their children's learning. Parents feel valued and give high praise for the attentive and supportive manager and staff.
- Staff plan an engaging and varied environment, and support children's learning well. Children enthusiastically play, explore and discover, both inside and in the spacious and stimulating outdoor area. They are inquisitive and curious about the world around them.
- The manager regularly evaluates the effectiveness of the pre-school. She looks for any differences in the learning of groups of children and makes positive changes that help all children to make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not monitor staff performance rigorously to help to set precise areas for further improvement for all staff and achieve outstanding practice.
- Some staff assessments of children's development are not always precise enough to help them to plan highly effectively for children's next steps in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- monitor staff performance more closely and set precise targets for their professional development to help to raise the good quality of their practice further
- ensure assessments of children's learning are consistently precise to help to plan even more effectively for the next steps in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the pre-school's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The ambitious manager is well supported by an enthusiastic committee and staff team. Together, they reflect closely on children's experiences and make continual improvements. For example, they have introduced targeted sessions for the school leavers and the manager worked with local schools to identify the most important key skills to promote. Overall, the manager supports her staff well in their continued professional development and encourages staff to share good practice. She provides good coaching, guidance and helpful further training opportunities. After recent training, staff have enhanced their support for children's language development, such as through new activities, games and resources. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff attend regular training on all aspects of safeguarding. They are clear on the action to take if they have a concern and take effective steps to ensure children's safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe children regularly and, overall, know their stages of development well. They use children's interests to help to provide exciting learning opportunities that motivate and ignite their curiosity. For example, children enjoy exploring a role-play campfire and eagerly sit in a circle to sing 'campfire songs'. Staff challenge children to count down from 10 as they pretend to sizzle sausages in a pan and ask number problems. Staff support children's early literacy skills successfully and give children varied opportunities to make marks for a purpose. For example, children enjoy writing letters to send in the role-play post office. Staff discuss what information might be on the envelope and children learn why addresses and stamps are important.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are very sensitive towards children's needs and are highly effective at supporting their emotional well-being. Children have many opportunities to develop their independence and show a strong sense of self-esteem. For example, they proudly take part in 'chatterbox' sessions, confidently talking in front of the group about their recent experiences. Children are very physically active and exciting opportunities for exercise. They go on regular walks through the local countryside and use challenging physical equipment at the adjoining school. Children behave well and are kind and considerate of others. They happily include others in their play, making sure everyone has a turn.

Outcomes for children are good

Children eagerly learn the skills that prepare them for future learning and starting school. They have good early literacy skills. They use their imaginations well, such as when buying food in the role-play shop. Children confidently share their ideas and views, and communicate well. They compare sizes, colours and quantities skilfully and have good control over pencils and creative equipment. Boys and girls both engage well and show good motivation in their chosen play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113822
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1089127
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	17
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	West Dean Pre-School Nursery Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524410
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2015
Telephone number	01243 811423

West Dean Pre-School Nursery registered in 2001. It is open each weekday from 9.05am to 2.30pm, during term time. There are five members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to qualified teacher status. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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