

Parson Drove Pre-School

Alderman Payne Primary School, 9 Main Road, Parson Drive, Wisbech, PE13 4JA



Inspection date

10 May 2018

Previous inspection date

26 February 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 develop strong partnerships with parents and value their opinions and comments. They involve parents in children's learning from the beginning and find innovative ways to encourage them to continue supporting learning at home.
- The manager knows the children exceptionally well and has robust monitoring procedures in place to track their progress. Where necessary, the involvement of outside professionals is instigated swiftly to bring about improvements in children's well-being and learning.
- Children are learning how to concentrate during group activities and particularly enjoy listening to their favourite stories. Staff capture children's imaginations by using resources, such as puppets, to illustrate the tales. This inspires children to join in and contribute when appropriate.
- Links with other providers and the host school are robust. This is especially beneficial as children transition to school as they regularly visit and become accustomed to the school environment prior to starting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to extend children's mathematical skills as they play.
- Staff do not always know when to join in with children's freely chosen play and when to step back to allow children to explore for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff's awareness of how to promote children's mathematical skills
- develop staff's confidence in knowing when and how to join in and enhance children's freely chosen play.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff can recognise the signs that indicate children are at risk of harm and know how to report their concerns. They are vigilant to children's safety as they play and take appropriate precautions. For example, staff ensure ramps are not slippery and encourage children to use their 'walking feet' inside to prevent trips and falls. Recruitment procedures are robust and ensure all staff are continually suitable for their roles. The manager supervises staff well and sets ambitious targets to help them improve their teaching abilities. Training courses are attended when possible and together with activities, such as staff meetings and networking opportunities, mean staff are familiar with current practices in childcare. Self-evaluation is embedded in practice and this has contributed effectively to the plans for a new learning environment for the pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide children with a wide range of learning opportunities inside and out in the garden. Children confidently find activities they are interested in and are continually busy learning through play. Children are imaginative and happily spend time making cups of tea in the mud kitchen. They independently find the resources they need and demonstrate good hand-to-eye coordination as they pour water into cups. Children communicate well with staff and friends alike. They take great care over their artwork and readily recreate what they have seen. For example, children paint pictures of the crabs they recently saw on the beach.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy their time at pre-school and are developing their independence according to their stages of development. They follow the daily routines, such as snack time, when they make choices and serve themselves from the variety of healthy foods available. Children play happily together and behave well. Their physical development is fostered well as they learn to handle tools, such as scissors and undertake more rigorous exercise during regular sporting activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are successfully developing the skills they need for school. They show an interest in activities and are demonstrating they can concentrate on things that interest them. Children are keen to try making marks using a variety of resources and are showing an interest in writing their names. Children in receipt of additional funding benefit from the imaginative activities provided and as a result, they progress well from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221861
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1090091
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	16
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	Parson Drove Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517187
Date of previous inspection	26 February 2015
Telephone number	07503165432

Parson Drove Pre-School registered in 1984. The pre-school employs six members of staff, of whom four hold appropriate early years qualifications between level 3 and level 5, while one member of staff is currently working towards her level 3 qualification. A caretaker/cleaner is also employed. The pre-school opens on Monday to Thursday from 8.50am until 3pm, and on Friday from 8.50am until 11.50am, term time only. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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