

Squirrels Corner Pre-School



Moorlands Community Centre, Townhill Way, West End, Southampton, SO18 3NU

Inspection date	22 May 2018
Previous inspection date	23 September 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

- The staff know the children very well. They greet all children warmly and help them to settle quickly. Children grow in confidence quickly and enter the pre-school willingly. They happily engage in self-chosen activities and make good progress.
- Leadership is strong. The management team and committee work very closely. They effectively monitor the provision and actively plan ways to make future improvements.
- The manager carries out effective supervision with staff. She quickly identifies any training needs and encourages staff to expand their knowledge and skills.
- Children have lots of fun during their time at pre-school. They choose from a wide range of stimulating activities. For instance, older children discover the life cycle of caterpillars and enjoy watching them turn into butterflies that they later release.
- The manager and staff build strong partnerships with other professionals. This helps staff to support consistently the development of children who attend other settings.
- The manager and her team carry out observations of each other's practice. This enables them to reflect and build on their existing skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, some younger children and those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities are not fully engaged during group times.
- Occasionally, children's assessments are not fully accurate. As a result, planning is not always as effective as possible to support children's next stages of development fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find ways to support all children's interests during group times to help them listen and focus more effectively
- strengthen the systems used to ensure assessment and planning are consistently accurate.

Inspection activities

- The inspector listened to the views of parents and considered these.
- The inspector spoke to the management team and members of the committee.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including training documents and policies, and looked at children's progress with staff.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with children inside and outside.

Inspector

Tiffany Morris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are vigilant in identifying signs that a child may be at risk. They refer their concerns in a timely manner. The manager and committee keep up to date with legislative changes and act swiftly to meet these requirements. Furthermore, staff have recently attended Local Authority training to promote building relationships with other professionals and liaised with other settings. The setting has made many improvements since its last inspection. It has strengthened links with parents, to share information about their children. Parents speak highly of the team and value the shared approach to support children's learning at home. Recruitment and induction procedures are effective and ensure staff ongoing suitability to work with the children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is strong. Overall, all staff interact with children enthusiastically and encourage them to actively think for themselves. Children are encouraged to repeat familiar songs and phrases. This helps them to build their communication and language skills. Staff use lots of good questions and children share their thoughts and ideas regularly. Children are engaged in their imaginative play, as they pretend to cook with the wide range of resources available. Others use different containers to transfer water to different areas outside. Staff support children's physical development very well, for example, they provide many opportunities for children to move freely in the outside space and enjoy using ride-on cars. Older and younger children enjoy taking part in physically active groups that promote movement and rhyme.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate good levels of consistent behaviour. They resolve conflicts and are learning to respect each other's feelings. Children feel safe in their surroundings and build strong bonds with staff. Children grow in confidence quickly and make good friendships. Staff are kind and patient, they include all children in their discussions and help children to keep safe. For instance, they encourage children to put on sun cream and talk about healthy food choices. Children learn skills that help them to prepare for their next stages of development. For instance, staff encourage all children to think about others and show care for one another. Children learn to be responsible for their actions.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are happy and make good progress in readiness for school. This includes children who have SEN and/or disabilities and those for whom the provider receives additional funding. Children are keen to take part in activities that support their communication and language skills. They repeat familiar phrases and enjoy reading books. All children develop their independence skills, for example, they spread their own toppings on bread at snack time and clear their plates.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131562
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	1126921
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	26
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Squirrels Corner Pre-School Management Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905021
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2015
Telephone number	07808436313

Squirrels Corner Pre-School opened in 1991. It operates from Moorlands Community Centre in West End, Southampton. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm, during school term times. The pre-school provides free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are eight staff, seven of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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