

Willow Cottage Nursery (Bletchingdon)

Willow Cottage Nursery, The Old School, Weston Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 3DH



Inspection date

29 May 2018

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager is ambitious and has high expectations for the nursery. She values the opinions of staff, parents and children and actively seeks their views when evaluating the provision. She successfully incorporates their comments and suggestions into her plans for future development, to help make continual improvements that enhance outcomes for children.
- Children are confident, with good self-esteem. The very effective key-person system and settling-in procedures support children well. They quickly develop good relationships with staff and make friends with other children, showing they feel emotionally secure.
- There is a strong partnership with parents, enabling the effective sharing of detailed information. This helps staff to know each child's home care routine and also supports children's learning at home. Parents feel valued and speak highly of staff.
- Children are enthusiastic learners who are keen to explore and investigate. The stimulating and welcoming environment supports children's independence and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Systems to monitor staff do not have a strong enough emphasis on incisively evaluating their practice to help raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.
- At times, staff do not manage lunchtime routines effectively to maintain children's interest and prevent them becoming restless.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on existing staff monitoring systems to focus more precisely on raising the quality of teaching to an outstanding level
- review the organisation of lunchtime routines to help children engage purposefully during these times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager and assessed how the nursery evaluates the service it provides to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, and children's development files.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children and spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents and viewed testimonials, to gain their views on the service they receive.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know the signs and symptoms to look out for which may indicate that a child might be at risk of harm and the procedures to follow to help protect children. Strong recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitably checked before they work with children. The manager follows thorough induction procedures to help new staff and those taking on new roles develop a secure knowledge about their responsibilities. All staff have regular training opportunities and supervisory meetings. For example, they have completed 'in the moment planning' training to help develop their teaching practice. The manager accurately monitors and tracks the progress of all children. Gaps in learning are quickly identified with appropriate action taken.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff constantly observe and assess children's learning. They have a good understanding of their interests and current stage of development. This helps staff to plan activities that challenge and engage children in learning. Staff support children's communication and language skills effectively. For instance, they talk about what babies are doing as they explore and ask older children questions that encourage them to think and respond. Babies and toddlers enjoy making marks with paint, chalk and sand. They confidently use their hands and staff then extend their learning by providing other utensils. Older children concentrate for long periods as they use their imaginations well. For example, they dress up as 'Doctor Diamond,' wrapping bandages on the patient with a broken leg.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children benefit from a choice of nutritious food and drinks at mealtimes. They develop independence, for example, as they use spoons to serve themselves lunch and pour their own water. Children have a very good awareness of the importance of healthy eating, as they tell staff that 'milk is good for your teeth and bones'. Children have plenty of opportunities to gain fresh air and exercise in the extensive nursery garden. Babies learn to climb and develop their physical skills. For example, they pull themselves up steps to a slide and then slide down. Older children enjoy digging in the soil, using magnifying glasses to look closer at what they find, and show delight as they discover snails.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who learn English as an additional language, gain important skills that prepare them well for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. Babies learn to walk and communicate their needs through gestures. Toddlers enjoy learning how to count and confidently take part in singing and listening to rhyming books, with the use of props and puppets. Older children have a good knowledge of the phonetic alphabet and successfully use this to spell out and write their names and other simple words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY499912
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1044671
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	Willow Cottage Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP529247
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01869 251358

Willow Cottage Nursery (Bletchington) registered in 2016 as a private limited company. The nursery is situated at The Old School, in Bletchington, in Oxfordshire. It is one of three privately owned nurseries located in Oxfordshire. The nursery operates weekdays from 7.40am until 5.45pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 18 staff, 13 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications between level 3 and level 6.

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