

The Valley Pre-School

Meonstoke C of E School, Chapel Road, Meonstoke, Southampton,
Hampshire SO32 3NJ



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| Inspection date | 5 September 2018 |
| Previous inspection date | 19 January 2016 |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Good | 2 |
| Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Staff and parents form productive partnerships. They continually share details about children's development. Parents praise the methods staff use to prepare children for school, and all children make continuous progress in their learning.
- The manager supports all staff to reflect on their own practice and she invites them to make suggestions for future improvement. Staff are happy and feel valued, and they offer parents and children access to a good quality provision.
- Staff are worthy role models. They demonstrate how children can show acts of kindness towards other people. Children are well mannered, and they consistently display good behaviour. They patiently wait for their turn to use the outdoor play equipment.
- The staff team initiates close links with other professionals involved in the care of children. It follows recommended strategies to support children's health and development, and to improve outcomes for children positively.
- Children experiment with mathematics. Younger children count the parts of their body, and older children use their fingers to signify amounts as they add and subtract numbers.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff are not aware of the changing needs of children in the play environment, such as when children move between the indoor and outdoor area.
- At times, staff do not give children time to process information fully and to think about how they would like to respond to questions in their own way.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- monitor staff deployment across the pre-school to meet the needs of all children at all times
- allow children plenty of time to consider how to answer questions and share their opinions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to some parents to seek their opinions about the pre-school.
- The inspector viewed staff teaching children indoors and outdoors throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and discussed the training opportunities open to staff.
- The inspector accessed children's learning documents and spoke to staff about the progress children are making.
- The inspector and the manager observed and evaluated an adult-led activity.

Inspector

Julie Bruce

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager critically reflects on the progress different groups of children are making. She highlights any gaps in children's learning. For instance, she compares progress made by children of similar ages. Any concerns in relation to children's development are discussed with parents and staff. She is quick to address areas for improvement with her staff team, for example, they have recently developed the role-play space. Children use their imaginations as they play with others in an area they have helped to design. Regular supervision meetings are used effectively by the manager. For example, she discusses training opportunities with staff and any concerns they may have about children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager accesses new information about all aspects of child protection to make sure that the information she shares with staff is up to date. Staff are familiar with the safeguarding policies and they fully understand how to respond if they have any concerns about children's safety and welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff precisely assess the children in their group. They build up a good knowledge of children's favourite toys. They plan a variety of challenging activities to keep children motivated and interested in their play. Staff teach children about their own bodies. For example, they provide children with mirrors to study themselves, and children use different media as they concentrate hard to draw and paint their own faces. Staff provide plenty of opportunities for children to learn about shapes and sizes. For instance, staff encourage children to use construction resources. Children particularly enjoy using the large and small bricks to build houses.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

All children, including those who are new to the setting, are excited to attend pre-school and they make their way on arrival towards trusted adults. Children particularly enjoy dancing and engaging in physical exercise, for example, when staff demonstrate how children can change the shape of their bodies. Children morph from tightly rolled balls as they stretch out their bodies. They make good use of the space available to them as they pretend to wake up. Staff teach children new skills. For example, they encourage young children to practise climbing up and down steps. In addition, staff support children to learn about their emotions, such as when they practise pretending to wake up in different moods.

Outcomes for children are good

Children in receipt of additional funding are attaining well and catching up with friends. All children develop their understanding of the world, such as when they water and grow plants. They develop valuable skills that they will use when they move on in their education. Children are able to work in large and small groups. They complete many tasks for themselves, such as when they change their shoes and clothes.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 110140 |
| Local authority | Hampshire |
| Inspection number | 10063287 |
| Type of provision | Full day care |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| Day care type | Childcare on non-domestic premises |
| Age range of children | 2 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 24 |
| Number of children on roll | 19 |
| Name of registered person | The Valley Pre-School Committee |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP910771 |
| Date of previous inspection | 19 January 2016 |
| Telephone number | 01489878019 |

The Valley Pre-School registered in 1975 and in 2013 moved to purpose-built premises in the grounds of Meonstoke Church of England School. It is open each weekday during the school term between the hours of 9am and 3pm. The committee employs four members of staff to work directly with children. The manager holds a level 6 early years qualification, and all other staff are qualified at level 3.

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