

Lower Willingdon Pre-School Nursery

Rapsons Road, Lower Willingdon, East Sussex BN20 9RJ



Inspection date

11 September 2018

Previous inspection date

16 July 2015

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- There are excellent links with the attached primary school and staff work very closely with teachers to share information and ideas. There is a highly consistent learning environment which helps to build children's confidence for their move to school.
- The manager and staff build strong links with local speech and language therapists. They work closely together to share expertise and ideas and create a very inclusive learning environment. All children make at least good progress from their starting points, regardless of their circumstances.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. The manager and staff encourage regular communication and involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning. They value parent contributions and regularly discuss children's interests and next steps.
- Staff support children's personal well-being superbly well. Children rapidly gain highly valuable skills that help them to consistently and independently treat others with the utmost respect. They behave exceptionally well, explore the exciting environment with supreme confidence and are extremely enthusiastic and motivated learners.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The support for new staff is not fully embedded to help raise the quality of their practice to the highest level.
- Occasionally, some staff do not ask questions in the most effective way to fully extend children's thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop and fully embed the support for new staff to help raise their quality of practice to the highest levels
- enhance the use of questioning to support children's thinking skills further.

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.

Inspector
Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The ambitious manager and well-qualified, enthusiastic staff evaluate the pre-school closely and monitor the progress of all children precisely to help raise children's developmental outcomes. Together, they have improved the planning for children's learning and now focus more on exploring children's current interests. Overall, the manager supports her staff very well and they benefit from good training opportunities, guidance and support to help introduce new ideas. After recent training, they have enhanced their understanding of children's early language development and which letter sounds are easier to learn first. Safeguarding is effective. Staff receive thorough child protection training and are up to date with current legislation. They rigorously monitor children's safety and welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess children's development closely and plan precisely for their next steps in learning. They support children's language development particularly well and use an exciting range of small group and one-to-one games to support children's individual needs. Staff join in with children's play sensitively and skilfully extend their learning. For example, as children delight in exploring an outdoor mud kitchen, staff challenge them to follow a written recipe, recognising numbers and measuring ingredients. Staff offer a wide variety of exciting creative opportunities and children thoroughly enjoy setting up their own painting activities. They take great pride in describing their paintings in detail and enthusiastically explore how they can mix and create new colours.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff visit children and families in their homes before they start at the pre-school and build exceptionally nurturing relationships with them. Children are exceedingly happy and secure, and settle immediately into their play. Staff give all children the freedom to explore the environment at their own pace and consistently encourage their ideas. They value children's achievements extremely highly and children develop an excellent sense of self-esteem. Children have an exceptional understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and excitedly discuss fruit having 'vitamins' to make their bodies strong. Staff give parents extensive support and guidance to continue to support children's understanding at home, including the importance of oral hygiene.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop strong early literacy skills, and begin to write their names and recognise different letter sounds. They are confident communicators and effectively use talk to help build their excellent early friendships. Children confidently take on roles in their play and act out scenarios, such as cooking and making telephone calls. They show strong physical development and complete challenging obstacle courses with great care. Children quickly learn the skills they need for their future learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507915
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10062799
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	134
Name of registered person	Lower Willingdon Pre-School Nursery Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901953
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2015
Telephone number	01323 489264

Lower Willingdon Pre-School Nursery registered in 1971. It is open each weekday between 7.30am and 5.15pm, during school term time. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. There are seven members of staff. Of these, one has qualified teacher status, five hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a level 2 qualification.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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