

Whitfield Valley Community Nursery

Whitfield Valley Centre, Fegg Hayes Road, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST6 6QR



Inspection date	8 February 2019
Previous inspection date	12 February 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

This provision is good

- The managers regularly observe and evaluate teaching practice. They also hold individual meetings with staff to discuss any concerns and their development opportunities. Recent training has helped staff understand how to further support and extend children's literacy skills.
- Staff provide children with a broad range of activities. They provide a stimulating environment where children readily make decisions about their play.
- Staff are caring and attentive to children's individual needs. As a result, children develop warm and trusting relationships, not only with their key person, but with other staff and children. This supports children's emotional well-being and readiness for school.
- Regular meetings with parents and daily reports mean that parents are well informed about children's learning and development. Children progress well.
- The nursery manager continually reflects on practice. She evaluates the provision effectively and is aware of its strengths and weaknesses. Ongoing development plans are used to help ensure targeted improvements take place.
- Staff do not consistently gather sufficiently detailed information about children's abilities on entry. They do not plan as precisely as possible for all children's learning at the start of their placement.
- At times, staff do not give enough consideration to how they can effectively support older children's good understanding of mathematics in planned activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more information about children's prior learning and experiences on entry to help staff plan more precisely for children to achieve at the highest levels
- develop further opportunities for older children to widen their understanding of mathematical concepts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Coomer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Members of the management team are professional and enthusiastic. They work tirelessly to provide children with a safe and interesting place to play and learn. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of how to recognise a child who is at risk of harm and how to use procedures to protect children's welfare. Effective recruitment and induction systems are in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. When children move on to school, staff share information about their learning and development. This helps with their continued learning. The manager reflects on the progress of individual and specific groups of children across all areas of their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Well-qualified staff sensitively observe children's learning as they play alongside them to identify what they need to learn next. They assess children regularly to ensure any gaps in learning are identified and addressed. Children have opportunities to choose resources and also to join in planned activities. For example, they eagerly help staff to make dough and take turns stirring the mixture together. They experiment as they poke, squash and roll the dough. During such activities, staff talk to the children to support their understanding of why changes occur. Staff ask children a good range of questions to help them extend their thinking skills and to share their knowledge. Story time is used well to foster children's good progress in their language and communication development. Staff share books with children and point out images on the page. Staff build on children's speaking and listening skills well. When playing in the home corner, staff give simple instructions for children to follow and introduce them to new words.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show a strong sense of belonging. They enjoy finding their photograph to sign in and put their coats on their own pegs. Children are keen to explore and play with their friends. They learn to be considerate of each other's feelings as staff positively support their social and emotional well-being. Staff encourage children to express how they feel. Consequently, children behave well. They are kind, helpful and share toys. Staff provide opportunities for children to clean their teeth after meals, promoting good oral hygiene. Staff interactions with the children are fun and engaging. They play games and children enjoy being physically active as they dance and sing to their favourite songs.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. Children learn skills which prepare them well for their next stage of learning. Children demonstrate good hand-to-eye coordination. They use tools for a purpose, for instance to scoop and pour sand and rice. Children show confidence to take part in group games. They develop good listening and attention skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474866
Local authority	Stoke-on-Trent
Inspection number	10066131
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Chell Area Family Action Group
Registered person unique reference number	RP532472
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2016
Telephone number	01782 814134

Whitfield Valley Community Nursery registered in 2014. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5 and four hold level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 9.30am until 4.30pm, during term time only. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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