

The Avenue Day Nursery - Marlborough

St Marys Church Cottage, Silverless Street, MARLBOROUGH, Wiltshire
SN8 1JQ



Inspection date	23 April 2019
Previous inspection date	1 June 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

- Managers and staff continually review what they do. They implement clear plans for continuing improvements to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.
- Children are happy and settled at the nursery. They have warm, positive relationships with the staff, who know them well. Staff spend time with parents, gathering useful information about children's preferences, needs and interests when they start.
- Staff help children become confident and independent. Children quickly settle to play and explore the interesting resources inside and in the garden. Overall, staff support children's learning well and children make the progress they are capable of.
- Staff make effective use of planned activities, especially to develop children's emotional and social skills and their speech. They help children at risk of falling behind to catch up with their peers.
- Staff work effectively with other professionals to provide continuity for all children, including those who need additional support.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities, when children are initiating their own play, to extend children's learning and challenge their thinking fully, especially older children.
- Staff do not consistently make the best possible use of available play areas, such as a smaller room, hall and the garden. During busy sessions, the main playroom gets noisy and cluttered, making it harder for children to find what they need, concentrate and hear others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop teaching skills to a consistently high standard to enable staff to extend children's learning fully, especially for older children during play that they initiate themselves
- make more effective use of available play areas to provide better support for children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used for childcare purposes.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times and observed activities throughout the nursery.
- The inspector jointly evaluated practice with the nursery manager. She also met with the leadership team to discuss self-evaluation, policies and monitoring processes.
- The inspector sampled a range of relevant documentation, including children's records and evidence of staff qualifications and suitability.
- The inspector spoke with parents and read their comments to gather their views and opinions.

Inspector

Rachel Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of safeguarding and wider child protection issues. They have a clear understanding of how to identify and report concerns to help protect children from risk of harm. Staff are vigilant and follow effective procedures to keep children safe in the setting and on outings. Managers make thorough checks to recruit suitable staff and ensure their ongoing suitability. The manager regularly reviews staff practice and has successfully nurtured a supportive atmosphere. Staff observe and learn from each other's practice. They attend well-targeted training to develop skills that benefit children. For example, they learn how to deliver a programme to support children's speech and social skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a genuine interest in each child. They regularly observe children, accurately assess their development and plan for their progress. Children choose from a wide variety of stimulating activities, inside and outside, that support all areas of their development. For example, younger children enthusiastically mix compost and water to make muddy puddles which they then jump in. Older children explore the effects of pouring water down guttering. Staff provide many resources that have no particular purpose. These encourage children to play creatively and solve problems, for example to design and build a house. Children have many opportunities to make marks in their play. For example, they paint with large brushes outside and make lists in the role-play area. This prepares them well for learning to write.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff greet children warmly by name. Parents and carers are welcome to stay and settle their children if they wish. Children learn from staff who are good role models, as they treat everyone with respect and in a friendly and courteous way. Staff are highly skilled in helping children to develop their own skills in resolving conflicts. For example, children use a sand timer to decide when it is their turn to play on the bicycle. Children play energetically for long periods outside, which promotes their good health. Staff provide healthy snacks and advise parents of what makes a healthy lunch. Staff follow hygienic practices to help prevent cross-infection. They teach children to manage their own personal care, such as washing their hands and cleaning their noses. Children benefit from regular trips and outings into the town that help them learn more about their community. Staff make meaningful use of opportunities for children to develop an understanding of different people, cultures and the wider world. For example, children regularly visit a care home and enjoy singing, talking and playing with the residents.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are settled and confident. They learn to do things for themselves and choose what to play with. They play cooperatively and make friends. They develop a love of books and play imaginatively, often building on familiar stories. They use a range of materials to express their creativity. They count, sort and use mathematical ideas in their play. All children make good progress, in relation to their starting points. They are well prepared for the next stage in their education, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479643
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10076167
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	16
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	The Avenue Day Nursery Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP901025
Date of previous inspection	1 June 2016
Telephone number	01672519009

The Avenue Day Nursery at Marlborough registered in 2014. It operates from premises in Marlborough, Wiltshire. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are four staff working with the children; of these, the manager holds a level 6 qualification and two staff members hold level 3 qualifications.

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