

Apple Tree Pre-School

Sidmouth Infant School, Manstone Avenue, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9TJ



Inspection date	8 May 2019
Previous inspection date	5 December 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 staff and committee have a good understanding of how they want the pre-school to continue to develop and improve. For example, they are reviewing the way they record and monitor children's development. The manager provides a clear direction for the pre-school's further development based on an accurate evaluation of the quality of provision.
- Staff are kind and caring and form good attachments with children. Children are happy, confident and ready to learn.
- Children have good opportunities to explore and learn indoors and outside. Staff provide interesting and purposeful activities that support children's interests.
- Staff have developed good relationships with parents and a range of external agencies to help them to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Parents speak highly of the pre-school and the staff. They state that their children feel safe and secure and receive a good education that prepares them well for starting school.
- At times, boys struggle to understand their friends' needs and feelings as they play.
- Staff have not developed partnerships with all the other early years settings children attend and are therefore not sharing information to support some children's learning and development.
- The organisation of circle time and group time is not fully effective. As a result, some children struggle to take part and are not engaged in learning activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide boys with more support to help them develop positive relationships and friendly behaviour with their peers
- develop partnerships with all other settings children attend to support their learning and care
- review the organisation of group times so all children are able to join in and take part in learning activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, the manager and a member of the committee at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff files and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with some parents to gain their feedback on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's welfare, including protecting children from extremist views. The manager and committee follow effective recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure that staff working with children are suitable to do so. Staff have opportunities to continue their professional development, for example through attending training, and their performance is monitored through regular supervision meetings. Staff talk about the positive impact this has on their work with children. For example, they are more confident, share activity ideas at staff meetings and reflect on areas that they could improve.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make regular observations and assessments of children's learning. These are used to inform planning and support children's ongoing good progress. Staff encourage children's communication and language skills well. For example, they ask interesting questions to help children describe what they are doing, or to talk about their favourite toys. Children enjoy experimenting with paint, seeing how to make different colours. Staff follow children's leads in their play well. For example, when children are washing toy cars in bowls of water staff extend this into an activity to see which cars float and which ones sink, involving mathematical language in their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to develop good levels of confidence and emotional well-being. Children of all ages confidently talk about their favourite activities, which include drawing and playing outside. Children enjoy time to play, run and explore outside, learning to take their own risks and keep themselves safe. For example, they use planks of wood to build balancing beams and then practise walking across and they also play parachute games. Children learn independence as they serve themselves healthy snacks and drinks. Children are proud of their achievements, for example, they proudly show staff pictures they have made and smile as they receive praise. Staff are good role models for children and as a result, children develop good manners and generally behave well.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with SEND, make good progress from their starting points. Children learn the sounds that letters represent and to recognise their written name. Staff promote children's mark-making and early writing skills. Children develop their ability to control a pencil to write their name. They can confidently count and use numbers as they play and they enjoy looking at books independently. Children are developing positive attitudes towards learning key skills to help them be ready and prepared for the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105826
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10089144
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Apple Tree Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521294
Date of previous inspection	5 December 2018
Telephone number	01395 577233

Apple Tree Pre-School registered in 1999 and operates from Sidmouth Primary School in Devon. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school is open from 9am until 3pm on Monday to Thursday during school term times. There are seven members of staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, one at level 5 and two hold qualifications at level 3.

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