

Inspection of Whiteley Pre-School

Gull Coppice, Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley, Fareham PO15 7LA

Inspection date: 14 July 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy attending their pre-school and arrive eager to learn. They are motivated to explore and successfully lead their own learning. Older children are well prepared for school. They show high levels of independence and confidently do things for themselves. Children show an increasing awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe. For example, they provide their friends with thoughtful safety reminders when the floor becomes slippery during water play. Older children show kindness to younger children. They are quick to offer their help and readily include them in their games. Children behave well. They demonstrate good manners and show respect for their environment.

Children are confident communicators. They use a wide range of vocabulary and listen well. Children work collaboratively to create an obstacle course for their friends. They use challenging equipment to create balancing platforms and test their ideas through trial and error. Children demonstrate good teamwork and regard for each other's ideas, as one child offers to 'steady' the platforms with additional bricks, while another child demonstrates a balancing technique to their friends by using their outstretched arms.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The highly qualified and experienced management team carefully monitor and support staff to develop their practice. It has effective oversight of induction procedures for new staff and successfully monitor staffs' understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The new manager provides capable leadership to the team. Together with the business manager and committee, she drives forward an ambitious plan based on robust self-evaluation. Staff, including those with lead roles such as the special educational needs coordinator, are supported to fulfil the requirements of their roles well.
- Staff have high expectations for all children. They have a good understanding of how children learn and the order in which they need to learn it. Staff use their accurate assessments of children's learning to plan timely and well-placed support. Children benefit from focused activities that support their developing language skills. They gain confidence in speaking in small groups and eagerly sing along to popular rhymes with their friends.
- Staff deliver a motivating curriculum that engages children's interest and that supports them to make good progress in their learning. Teaching is not precisely focused on helping children to think critically. Staff do not make the most of incidental opportunities to help children persevere when they encounter challenges in their play. At times, staff interactions with older children, particularly in some areas of mathematics, do not challenge children to make the best possible progress.

- Children gain a sense of personal responsibility and an understanding of their place in the community through activities, such as litter picking. They have good opportunities to share their thoughts and learn to respect that people may hold views that differ from their own. Staff have a sensitive regard for children's feelings and ideas and use these well to make changes that benefit the children. For example, staff have enhanced the outdoor play spaces taking into account children's love of sensory play. They effectively support children to be emotionally ready for their move on to school.
- Good attention is given to promoting children's health, and they benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks that meets their individual dietary needs well. Children develop good levels of independence as they cut fresh fruits and vegetables and learn about their benefits. They relish opportunities to play outside in a well-resourced and inviting outdoors learning environment. They create mud potions with their friends and learn to identify species of birds they find in the garden.
- Parents speak highly of the pre-school and the staff. They receive regular feedback on their children's learning and ideas on how to support their children's learning at home. Parents particularly valued the suggestions for home activities to support their children's learning at home, during times when some children were not able to attend during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff demonstrate a good level of knowledge and understanding of the policies and procedures to keep children safe. They share information swiftly with statutory agencies and work in effective partnership with other professionals to assure children's safety and well-being. The management team follows robust recruitment and induction processes that help to assure the suitability of adults working with children. Staff show vigilance in monitoring the security of the premises. They ensure compliance with data protection legislation and ensure documentation is stored securely.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure opportunities are provided by staff to challenge and extend the knowledge of the most able children across the curriculum.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY224509
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10143854
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Whiteley Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP520715
Telephone number	01489 565717
Date of previous inspection	8 January 2020

Information about this early years setting

Whiteley Pre-School registered in 2002 and operates within the community centre in Whiteley, Fareham. The pre-school is open term time only from 8.15 am until 3pm on weekdays. It employs 10 members of staff, including a business manager. Of these, eight staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one member of staff holds an early years degree. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Melissa Cox

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including training certificates, records of attendance, first-aid certificates, safeguarding policies and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with children and parents and gathered their views.

We carried out this inspection 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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