

Inspection of Winsley Acorns Preschool

Acorns Pre School Nursery, Tynning Road, Winsley, BRADFORD-ON-AVON, Wiltshire
BA15 2JN

Inspection date: 6 October 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The manager and staff create a friendly and welcoming environment where children feel safe and secure. Children settle quickly when they arrive and form positive attachments with the staff. Staff respond to children with warmth and kindness. Staff encourage children to make choices. For example, they can choose their snack from a range of healthy foods.

Children show curiosity to learn new things. Older children have lots of opportunities to develop their literacy skills and enjoy sharing stories and looking at books. Staff skilfully use questions such as 'why' and 'how' to allow children to think about what is happening in the book. Children recognise the sounds that letters make, and they know that 'n' is for nose. All children learn to play cooperatively with their friends. Children behave well, can share and take turns.

Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who may need extra help in their learning and development effectively. For example, staff use picture prompts effectively to help children understand what comes next. Staff engage in meaningful conversations with children and listen carefully to what they have to say. There is strong support for children who speak English as an additional language.

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

- The manager is passionate about her role and has a clear vision for the setting. Together with the staff team, they provide a curriculum that offers a wide range of experiences for children to help them make the best possible progress. However, at times, activities planned for the older children are not adapted effectively to support younger children's understanding and stage of development.
- Staff act as good role models to each other and to children. They promote a positive attitude towards other cultures and backgrounds, including those of the children. Children learn about the wider world, and staff work closely with parents to incorporate children's home religions and cultural requirements into activities. This enables all children to be involved in cultural festivals in a respectful way.
- The pre-school widens children's opportunities and gives them experiences that they may not otherwise have had. For example, staff provide children of all ages with daily trips to the local farm and allotments. Furthermore, they often take children into the local town, where they visit shops and the church to take part in scheduled activities. This helps to broaden children's understanding of other people and the local community.
- Children's communication and language are promoted well. Staff read stories

and sing songs with children throughout the day. They use simplified sign language to support communication. Children take part in a variety of small group adult-led activities that encourage speech, pronunciation and early phonics.

- Staff know the children very well, including those who need additional support. They observe children regularly to assess what they can do and to identify many of the skills they need to learn next. Planning focuses on any gaps in children's learning and experiences. Support for children with SEND is good. Potential issues are identified early, and external support and advice is sought when necessary. Staff work well with outside professionals, including other early years settings and local schools, to meet the needs of the children.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Staff speak to parents on a daily basis about children's time at the pre-school. Parents speak highly of the pre-school and comment on the great staff team and the range of outdoor learning experiences their children engage in. Although staff share information with parents in a range of ways, they do not consistently share enough information about children's achievements, to fully support parents to extend and continue their child's learning at home.
- The manager supports staff to complete training to enhance their professional development. For example, staff have recently attended training to support speech and language to support children's communication skills.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and their roles in safeguarding all children. They complete regular training to update and expand their knowledge. Staff are clear about the importance of making prompt referrals should they have any concerns about a child. Staff undertake effective risk assessments of the pre-school environment, which helps them to reduce and minimise any potential hazards. Staff teach children when out and about how to safely cross the roads to help keep them safe. The manager follows safer recruitment procedures to make sure that staff are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- simplify activities for the youngest children, to enable them to develop a deeper understanding of age-appropriate learning before trying more challenging tasks
- share more targeted information with parents about children's learning, to support them to extend and continue their child's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY403040
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10233760
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Winsley Acorns Pre-School
Registered person unique reference number	RP522378
Telephone number	01225 865 131
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Winsley Acorns Preschool registered in 1993. It operates from a purpose-built unit in the grounds of Winsley Church of England Primary School, Winsley, near Bradford-upon-Avon, Wiltshire. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged three and four years. The pre-school is open Monday 9am to 3pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am until 3pm and Friday 9am until 1pm, during term time. The pre-school employs six members of staff. Of these, two hold early years teacher status, one holds a qualification at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracey Cook

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and discussed how she organises and implements her curriculum.
- The manager took part in a joint observation with the inspector. The inspector considered the quality of education during activities and the impact this had on children's learning.
- The children spoke with the inspector and invited her into their play during the inspection.
- The inspector observed interactions and the conversations between the staff and the children and considered the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to key persons within the setting to consider their knowledge of what they wanted the children to learn.
- The parents spoke to the inspector and completed feedback forms so she could consider their views.
- The inspector had a discussion with the manager about staff's performance and training and how she evaluates their practice.
- The manager showed the inspector her relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of the staff.

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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