

Inspection of North Weald Village Pre-School Ltd

Village Hall, High Road, North Weald, EPPING, Essex CM16 6BU

Inspection date: 9 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive happy and eager to enter the pre-school. They are greeted by enthusiastic and caring staff who know them well. Children settle quickly and make their own play choices from a good range of well-presented resources. Children develop close relationships with their key person. They go to staff for cuddles, and staff are attentive to their individual needs. Children behave well. They are kind, polite and play together well.

Children enjoy playing outside in the garden. They have plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills as they run around safely, climb on the apparatus and enthusiastically push themselves along on the ride-on cars and trikes. Children show good imagination as they prepare a 'tea party' in the cosy, wooden playhouse and confidently offer visitors a cup of tea. Children benefit from lots of activities to help develop their small hand muscles in readiness for early writing. For example, they use a variety of tools to mould and shape play dough, dig and scoop sand, and chalk on large chalk boards, both inside and outside. Children enjoy trips out to the local area, such as visiting the nearby park, library and local train station. These experiences help children to gain a wider understanding of their local community.

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

- The dedicated owner, who is also the manager, strives to provide children with high-quality care and learning experiences. The manager and staff work closely with parents to make sure they know them well and understand about children's home lives. The management team uses additional funding effectively to enhance children's experiences. For example, it has recently purchased artificial grass for the outside area so that children can play outside all year round.
- The manager observes staff practice and provides feedback to help improve the quality of the provision. She holds individual supervision meetings to discuss any concerns staff may have and to identify any additional training needs. Staff comment that their well-being is a high priority and that they feel supported in their roles. They have access to ongoing training to further enhance their practice.
- Staff plan a broad range of activities to support children's evolving interests and individual needs. They work hard to ensure that children enjoy their time at the pre-school and have fun as they learn. However, at times, group activities are not consistently organised to support the younger children, who do not always stay actively engaged in their learning.
- The pre-school has a designated special educational needs coordinator (SENCO). The SENCO provides very good support to children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. She works with staff, parents and other professionals

to ensure that children who require it get additional support quickly. Targeted plans are put in place and regularly reviewed to ensure that children make the most progress in their development.

- Staff join in with children during activities to promote their engagement. However, staff do not always extend their interactions to help children to think things through and to support their learning further. For example, staff ask children to count the shells in the sand. When children make mistakes while counting quickly, staff do not support them to rectify this.
- Staff engage children in conversations throughout the day. They show a genuine interest in what children have to say and encourage them to talk about their own experiences. Staff read children a good variety of stories and encourage them to talk about what they can see in the pictures. Children enjoy singing and join in enthusiastically with the actions.
- Staff encourage children's independence across all age groups. Children learn to put their things away in their own drawers and put on their own coats and wellington boots before going outside. Children serve themselves from a good range of healthy fruit and vegetables at snack time.
- Parents are full of praise for the pre-school and say their children enjoy attending. They say staff communicate well with them regarding their child's progress and development. They value the discussions with staff at the end of each day about how their child has been and what they have been doing.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff demonstrate a robust knowledge of their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children. They regularly update their safeguarding knowledge, for example through training and discussions at staff meetings. Staff have a secure understanding of the possible signs and behaviours that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. They are clear about how to refer any concerns, both within the pre-school and to relevant external agencies. Staff understand how to respond swiftly to any concerns they may have about another member of staff's behaviour. A thorough recruitment and induction procedure is in place to ensure children are cared for by staff who are suitable to do so.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the organisation of group activities to ensure that all children are fully engaged in their learning
- help staff to extend their interactions, to support children's learning further and help them make their maximum progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2590514
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10251221
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	35
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	North Weald Village Pre-School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2590512
Telephone number	01992 522883
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

North Weald Village Pre-School registered in 2020. It is based in North Weald Village Hall. The setting employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting is open during term time, from 9am until 3pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 9am until Midday on Wednesday and Friday. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisa White

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 manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.

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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