

Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery



Stoke Heath Community Art Centre, Redditch Road, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, B60 4JN

Inspection date	29 January 2015
Previous inspection date	13 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The partners and staff have a good understanding of children's abilities and interests. They know which aspects of children's learning to focus on next as a result of their accurate assessments of their progress, which they discuss regularly with parents.
- The partners and staff effectively help children to make good progress and to be ready for school. Children are confident, imaginative and resourceful. They communicate clearly and expressively, and are increasingly independent in managing their self-care.
- Comprehensive safeguarding procedures are effectively implemented by the partners and staff. They fully understand how to protect children from harm and take prompt action if they have any concerns about their welfare.
- Parents are fully informed about their children's progress and positively contribute to their learning at home and at nursery. For example, they are currently helping staff to promote children's good understanding of letters and sounds.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, two-year-old children, and those who are less able, need more support from staff to help them to join in with free-choice play and large group activities. During some of these activities staff do not always remind older children to listen, take turns and share resources.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consistently encourage children's attentive listening, turn taking and sharing of resources during free-choice play and large group activities
- offer more consistent support for younger and less able children to better promote their sustained involvement during free-choice play and large group activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playroom, listening area and the outside area, and carried out a joint observation with a partner who is one of the owners.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the two partners.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures relating to children's welfare.

Inspector

Rachel Wyatt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children enjoy learning in inviting, well-resourced surroundings, which stimulate their choices, ideas and often purposeful play. The partners and staff are particularly successful in fostering each child's active involvement and purposeful learning during well-organised small group activities. They skilfully adapt their teaching and effectively use resources to capture children's interest and to build on their knowledge and skills. For example, the partners and staff are effectively helping children to have a secure understanding of letters and sounds and to form recognisable letters. They use interesting activities and games to promote children's critical thinking, accurate counting and competent matching of items according to number, shape and colour. During free-choice activities most children are busy, imaginative and resourceful. However, on occasions younger and less able children's involvement is not sustained if an adult is not with them.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children are well-looked after and thrive in clean, safe and secure surroundings. Good information sharing between staff and parents ensure children's care and health needs are fully understood and met. Very effective settling-in arrangements reassure children and parents. Thereafter, the partners and staff successfully foster children's confidence and growing independence in readiness for school. For example, children increasingly look after their possessions and manage getting dressed for outdoor activities by themselves. Children enjoy learning and socialising together, especially during small group activities and mealtimes. At times, staff miss opportunities to remind children to listen to each other or to take turns with resources but overall they behave well. Children want to do well as staff acknowledge and praise their efforts. For instance, children eagerly discuss and show them the work they have done at home with their parents. Children relish being active and outdoors, enjoying often challenging physical and exploratory play in all weathers.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The partners are enthusiastic and successful in their efforts to ensure children and families access a high-quality nursery provision that meets their needs. For example, since the last inspection significant improvements to the premises have enhanced all aspects of children's care and learning. Effective recruitment, induction and staff development procedures ensure that the partners and staff are suitable, well-qualified and skilled teachers. They adeptly work together to promote children's good health and safety and to ensure they have fun and make good progress. Parents really appreciate the partners' and staff's welcome, sensitive guidance and positive feedback about their child's care, learning and development. Well-established links with other agencies result in accurately assessed and planned for support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The partners work effectively with schools to help children to make smooth transitions into full-time education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY341319
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	849306
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery Partnership
Date of previous inspection	13 January 2010
Telephone number	07749 477 553

Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery was registered in 2006. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff, including the two partners who are the owners. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least level 3, including a member of staff who has Early Years Teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 9.30am until 2.45pm, with the option of an early start time of 9am. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The partners run a toddler group in an adjacent building on a Tuesday morning from 10am to 11.30am.

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