

# Willow Nursery and Pre-School

Charlton Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5PG



## Inspection date

13 February 2015

Previous inspection date

8 July 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The quality of teaching across the pre-school and nursery is good. Staff plan a range of interesting and exciting activities. As a result, all children, including those whose home language is not English, make good progress in all areas of their learning and development.
- The management and staff use self-evaluation to identify their strengths and areas for development. This means that they are able to make focused plans for improvement.
- Staff provide a safe and secure environment, so that the children can explore freely. They have a good understanding of child protection issues and safeguarding is given the highest priority.
- Staff work well in partnership with parents, professionals and other early years providers. Communication is good and contributes to the meeting of children's needs.
- The commitment of staff to training and professional development has a positive impact on children's learning. Staff use their knowledge to teach children new skills which they need for their future learning and starting school.
- Staff use their good interaction and communication with children to successfully engage children and extend their learning.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children in the pre-school room are not always able to try out their thoughts and ideas during adult-led activities.
- The organisation of lunchtime in the nursery room means that children wait for long periods for their lunch and become unsettled.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children in the pre-school room to try out their thoughts and ideas in adult-led activities
- develop the organisation of mealtimes in the nursery room to ensure children are not waiting for long periods of time and become unsettled.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the pre-school room, nursery room and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records and planning.

### Inspector

Michelle Tuck

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and development and learn skills. Children have many opportunities to use their imaginations, practise their early writing skills and learn about number, shape and size. Staff engaged children well with props to listen to a favourite story. They skilfully asked useful questions which encouraged children to think and solve problems independently. Children are eager to take part in adult-led activities. However, although, staff ask children for their ideas they are not always given the time to try them. For example, during the inspection children were not given the resources to try out their ideas for decorating a large butterfly. Staff make regular observations of children's play and use these to plan appropriate challenges to extend children's learning. Babies and toddlers enjoy sensory experiences, exploring soil and leaves as they take part in forest school activities. This sparks their interest in the world around them.

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

Staff and children share close relationships in a nurturing and warm environment. This supports children's physical and emotional well-being. Staff teach the children about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Pre-school children help prepare the fruit for snack time and engage in discussion with the staff about healthy options. This promotes children's speaking and listening skills well. However, lunchtime in the nursery room is not as well organised. Children who are having a cooked meal wait a long time for it to be served, which leads to some children becoming unsettled and upset.

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

Management and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe. They maintain a safe, secure environment and practise the fire drill so that children know what to do in an emergency. There is an effective vetting and induction programme in place. This ensures that only staff who are suitable to do so work with the children. Ongoing supervision and yearly appraisals help the management to identify staff's strengths and weaknesses. Staff are well supported to develop their practice through ongoing training opportunities, which has a positive impact on children's learning and development. For example, staff use sign language with the children, which effectively supports children in their communication skills. There are strong partnerships with parents, professionals and other early years settings. Parents comment positively about their children's good progress since attending the setting. There are good systems for evaluating what is working well and what needs to improve. This includes reviewing the quality of the activities the children are involved in and their progress.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY281171
<b>Local authority</b>	Somerset
<b>Inspection number</b>	837448
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	43
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	76
<b>Name of provider</b>	Willow Nursery & Pre-School Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	8 July 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	01749 347006

Willow Nursery and Pre-school registered in 2004. The nursery operates from two buildings on the Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre site. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four. There are 14 staff employed, of whom one is qualified to level 6, two to level 5 and 11 to level 3.

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