

Kingsmead Pre School

Oxley Park Primary School, Redgrave Drive, Oxley Park, MILTON KEYNES, MK4 4TA



Inspection date

6 March 2015

Previous inspection date

8 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The provider and managers share a commitment to providing high-quality care and education. Both are clear about their responsibilities and work together effectively.
- Children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted play. They can easily find what they need because staff ensure resources are well organised.
- Staff become involved in children's play. They use thoughtful questioning to extend children's learning in all areas.
- Children learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Staff promote healthy eating and provide plenty of opportunities for children to be out in the fresh air.
- The provider and managers fully understand their roles in safeguarding children. They ensure all staff share this understanding and commitment, and all staff demonstrate they know what to do if they have a concern for a child's welfare.
- Staff work well in partnership with parents. Parents are well informed about their children's progress and are offered practical advice about supporting their children's learning at home.
- Staff have strong links with staff at local schools and the local children's centre. They share expertise to help support families and children, to help them as they grow and progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the best use of routine times to consistently promote independence and help children develop self-help skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of all opportunities to teach and develop children's independence and self-help skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding, child protection and first aid.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan a range of interesting activities that promote learning in all areas. Staff play alongside children and help them to learn new skills and solve problems. Children enjoy making grapes out of dough and then estimating how many they have made. Older children are helped to write their own names by staff who offer encouragement and guidance. Staff ensure all children, including those with home languages other than English, can join in at singing time by choosing songs that have actions as well as words. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress via daily conversations and regular parent evenings. Staff encourage parents to share their children's achievements from home via the 'wow' board. They support learning at home by lending books and resources. The quality of teaching is good, and the links between parents and staff are strong. As a result, all children make good progress in all areas of learning and are well prepared for school and the next stages in their learning.

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

Children are well looked after by staff who place a high priority on keeping children safe. All staff know what they must do if they suspect a child may be at risk of harm. Staff are vigilant about checking the premises for potential hazards. Children enjoy washing up after their snacks and staff recognise the importance of teaching children such skills. However, they do not make the best use of all opportunities to teach children to be independent. For example, staff do not always encourage older children to put their coats and hats on for themselves. Staff are good role models and teach children about the advantages of sharing and being kind to each other. As a result of the good care practices, children feel happy and safe at the pre-school and thrive in the positive environment that staff create.

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

The provider and managers fully understand the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The provider supports the managers in all aspects of their work. All staff benefit from regular opportunities to reflect upon their practice. They are encouraged to gain childcare qualifications and use any knowledge gained from this, and other training, to improve how they help children to learn and develop. Managers regularly review the progress that children are making and use these reviews to improve staff practice and outcomes for children. For example, by ensuring that planned activities to encourage early writing are equally as appealing to boys and girls. Managers take into account the views of parents, staff and children when reviewing the quality of the provision, and use these to help drive improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY410551
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	838606
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	29
Name of provider	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Date of previous inspection	8 June 2011
Telephone number	010908266680

Kingsmead Pre-school was first registered in 2010. The pre-school is open from 9.15am to 4.15pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.15am to 2.15pm on Tuesdays and 9.15am to 12.15pm on Fridays, during term time only. It receives funding for children aged two, three and four years old. There are four members of staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

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