

Stalbridge Pre-School

Stalbridge Pre-School, Duck Lane, Stalbridge, Dorset, DT10 2LP



Inspection date	24 November 2016
Previous inspection date	4 February 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The extremely caring and sensitive staff form exceptionally close and secure bonds with the children. Children benefit enormously from the excellent support for their personal, social and emotional development. They feel extremely safe, are exceptionally confident and have very high self-esteem.
- The experienced manager works well with staff to improve practices to ensure positive outcomes for children. She supports staff well to extend their knowledge and skills. For example, training has helped them improve how they manage children's behaviour.
- Staff plan and provide a wide range of learning experiences and activities which supports children well to make good progress from their starting points.
- Strong partnerships with parents, other early years settings, schools and external agencies contribute to staff meeting children's individual needs successfully.
- Staff place a strong focus on developing children's literacy skills. Children recognise letters and their sounds and write for different purposes. This prepares them well for the next stage in their learning and school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not make the best use of opportunities to challenge and extend children's thinking skills further, and share their own ideas.
- Sometimes, staff do not plan group activities effectively to keep all children fully interested and engaged in their learning.

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 challenge children's thinking further and encourage them to share their ideas
- ensure that group time activities keep all children fully engaged and interested.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and chairperson and spoke to staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's learning records and safeguarding procedures.

Inspector

Michelle Tuck

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff are clear about their role and responsibility to keep children safe. They are able to identify a potential cause for concern and know the correct reporting procedures to follow. The management team and staff monitor children's progress well. Staff observe and assess effectively to plan activities and learning experiences in response to children's interests and next steps. They provide prompt support for children who need extra help so that they can catch up developmentally. The management team makes good use of funding to work with parents and support children's communication and language development. Successful use of self-evaluation ensures changes focus on improving children's experiences. For example, changes to the environment encourage children more to explore and follow their interests across the curriculum.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team supports children's communication and language skills successfully. For example, it encourages children to listen to one another as they share photographs and confidently talk about exciting news from home, which successfully boosts their self-esteem. Staff use visual clues and toys well to engage children's interest in stories. For example, they use laminated pictures to retell a favourite story about a caterpillar. Staff support children's mathematical development effectively. For example, children match numerals on small-wheeled vehicles to numbers on the toy garage roof.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely happy at the pre-school and benefit enormously from a strong sense of community. Staff are exceptionally kind and gentle, and are excellent role models to the children. Staff are highly skilled in helping children to recognise their feelings and the impact their behaviour has on others. Children manage their own behaviour exceptionally well. For example, they independently use resources, such as a sand timer, to help them negotiate with others to take turns and share toys fairly. The learning environment is extremely rich and stimulating. For example, children benefit greatly from the inviting outdoor area, where they learn about planting, growing, and the natural world, and develop excellent physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident learners. They count in routines and activities, and enjoy learning about numbers. For example, they count the days of the week and place numbers in the correct sequence. Children develop good social skills and independence, which prepares them well for school. Children communicate clearly and have a good vocabulary. They enjoy being creative, for example they have fun making boats from recycled materials.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419797
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1062416
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Stalbridge Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904505
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2013
Telephone number	01963 364 723

Stalbridge Pre-School registered in 2011 in its current location within the grounds of Stalbridge C of E Primary School in Stalbridge, Dorset. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday during term time only from 8.45am to 3pm. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs eight members of staff to work with the children. Of these, seven have a qualification at level 3 and one member of staff has a qualification at level 2.

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