

Locking Preschool

The Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking, Avon, BS24 8AR



Inspection date	17 January 2017
Previous inspection date	5 February 2014

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Teaching is of a very high standard. Staff are extremely responsive to children's needs and skilfully encourage their independence. They sensitively help children to keep trying new skills, think of solutions to problems and find alternative ways of doing things.
- Staff make meticulous observations of children's development so they know them extremely well. They recognise each child's uniqueness and provide challenging activities. Children are motivated, curious learners. They make rapid progress.
- The excellent partnerships with parents, outside agencies and other early years providers has a significant impact on children's well-being and learning.
- The provider and manager drive improvement through very accurate self-evaluation and reflection on their practice. For example, they have greatly increased the information they seek from parents on children's starting points. This enables staff to plan very effectively for children's individual learning needs as soon as they start.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff provide excellent support to help children manage their feelings and consider the impact of their behaviour. They sensitively help children to work together on how to resolve any conflict.
- Children gain an excellent awareness of safe and healthy practices. For example, they have extensive opportunities to use a range of tools and cook on a real fire, so they confidently explain about safety and hygiene as they build a pretend fire.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help older children to extend their mathematical development even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with parents, children and staff, and took account of the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy manager, and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the safety of the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff follow their extensive policies and procedures to keep children safe. There is excellent security and external doors have alarms, alerting staff when they are open. The manager and staff have an excellent awareness of the procedures to follow should a child be at risk of harm. The manager monitors children's development closely and ensures they receive any additional support they may need to catch up rapidly. She provides highly successful support for staff's ongoing professional development to maintain outstanding outcomes for children. For example, she observes their practice and accurately feeds back to them. Staff have extensive training opportunities. For example, training in signing has improved support for children learning English as an additional language and those with speech delay.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an exemplary awareness of how children learn. They listen and respond extremely well to children. Children become animated and engrossed in their discussions, extending their language and communication skills really well. For example, children make up stories in a group, contributing their own ideas and listening to others. Staff support children exceptionally well in making predictions, testing their ideas and becoming successful learners. They help children make links in their learning. For example, they show them a real lemon and children recall smelling the lemon tea they played with earlier. Children count clearly and recognise shapes, although staff are not always as successful in extending older children in doing simple addition and subtraction.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are exceptionally confident, which underpins all their learning. Staff provide a highly stimulating nurturing environment. Children excitedly explore the extensive resources that provoke their ideas and play. For example, they investigate different types of tea and engage in playing shops with real fruit, vegetables and money. They discover what a sink plunger will or will not stick to or what a spirit level does. Children develop a highly positive awareness of people's differences. For example, young children notice a picture of Maasai Warriors and show how they dance by jumping. Staff help them recall a visit from Sri Lankan teachers and use the internet to find out about growing food there.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children develop outstanding skills, preparing them extremely well for school. Older children enjoy practising their early writing skills. For example, they make shopping lists and write party invitations in their role play. Children are highly independent, carry out age-appropriate tasks with ease and have outstanding physical skills. For example, at snack time they open packets and learn which knife to use to spread butter or cut fruit.

Setting details

Unique reference number	115276
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	1068409
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Locking Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905679
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2014
Telephone number	07810242330

Locking Preschool registered in 1992. It operates from the village hall in Locking near Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset. The pre-school opens each weekday during school term time only. Sessions are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am until 3.30pm and on Thursday from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are eight members of staff who work with the children. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6 and six members of staff hold a qualification at level 3. One staff member holds an early years qualification at level 2 and is working towards a level 3.

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