

Somerford Kindergarten

Quinta School Grounds, Ullswater Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4LX



Inspection date	25 April 2017
Previous inspection date	29 June 2015

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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is very good. Interactions between the well-qualified staff and children are used effectively to promote all areas of children's development. Challenging learning experiences support children's next steps for learning and interests. As a result, children are making good progress.
- Staff are supported well. Regular performance management and continuing professional development opportunities ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently strong or improving.
- An effective key-person system ensures that children form close relationships with staff. Staff have an excellent understanding of children's individual needs. They work closely with parents to ensure children's care and education needs are met.
- Children are developing the skills, knowledge and attitudes to learning that prepare them well for starting school. They can write their own names, identify letters and numbers and use them confidently in their play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not effectively use the information taken from their accurate assessments of children's learning to fully update parents about their children's current level of development and progress.
- Links with other settings children attend are not developed enough to support as much continuity in their learning and development as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide parents with more detailed information regarding their child's current level of development to keep them better informed about their child's progress
- build on the links with other settings children attend to support greater continuity in their experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the kindergarten manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as children's developmental records and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the kindergarten.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the kindergarten manager.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lynsey Hurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are clear about their role in protecting children from harm. They know how to identify possible signs that may cause concern and are fully aware of what to do should they have any concerns about children's welfare. Thorough self-evaluation takes into account the views of staff, the committee, parents and children. Partnerships with parents are good. Information about children's skills and abilities are gathered on entry to support initial assessments. Parents are complimentary about the setting. They engage in stay-and-play sessions to build on shared learning experiences to support home learning. Tracking and monitoring of children's progress is used well to identify potential gaps in the learning opportunities available to children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a very good understanding of how children learn and provide them with fun learning experiences that motivate them to engage. They support children's early literacy and mathematical skills extremely well. Children are encouraged to draw graphs to record the number and different objects they find in their environment. Monetary value is introduced through role play experiences. For example, staff challenge children about how much three scoops of ice cream will cost if each scoop costs one pence. Gaps in children's individual learning are identified quickly and staff are proactive in seeking additional support so that targeted interventions can be sought.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's emotional well-being is supported well. They show empathy and concern for others and demonstrate this if friends hurt themselves. Staff are good at promoting children's independence and self-care skills. For example, children serve themselves drinks throughout the day and manage their personal hygiene needs appropriately for their age. Children are developing a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. Staff engage them in regular discussions about healthy food choices and a balanced diet. Daily opportunities to be active in the spacious well-resourced outdoor areas help to promote their good health and physical well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning from their starting points, including those in receipt of funding. Children access resources independently to extend and enhance their interests and play. They show good problem-solving skills and persevere during tasks to achieve a desired goal. Children are motivated and eager to learn. They are well behaved and well mannered and are clear about the expectations of the kindergarten.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305306
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1090602
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	22
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Somerford Kindergarten
Registered person unique reference number	RP524930
Date of previous inspection	29 June 2015
Telephone number	01260 221638

Somerford Kindergarten was registered in 1982. It operates within the grounds of Quinta County Primary School, Congleton. The kindergarten employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The kindergarten is open Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 11.30am and 12.30pm to 3pm. A lunch club operates from 11.30am to 12.30pm, providing extended sessions or a full day session for those children who require it. The kindergarten provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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