

Willow Nursery and Pre-School

Charlton Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5PG



Inspection date

3 May 2017

Previous inspection date

13 February 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

- All children have good communication skills. They are keen to explain what they are doing. Those who are learning English as an additional language make rapid progress and become highly confident speakers. All children are well prepared for school.
- Children relate very well to each other. They talk about the importance of sharing equipment and are kind and considerate. There are high-quality relationships between staff, children and parents characterised by strong mutual respect.
- Staff give parents accurate information about their children's progress and guidance about how to support learning at home. For example, children keenly discuss with their parents what to bring from home for sound of the week.
- Staff assess children's progress accurately and plan interesting activities that extend and challenge children's understanding. Children have frequent opportunities to practise their physical skills, for example, balancing on one foot and catching a bean bag.
- The committee works closely with all staff through monthly meetings to ensure that the provision continues to develop. There are high expectations of all staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff organisation of some group activities do not fully meet the learning needs of the older children involved, as they cannot fully participate and contribute.
- There are insufficient resources available to fully reflect children's backgrounds and extend their knowledge of other cultures and communities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that group activities consistently meet the individual learning needs of the older children, so they can easily contribute
- extend children's access to a wide range of resources that fully reflects their backgrounds and extends their knowledge of other cultures and communities further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children to find out their views.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning, children playing and staff leading activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector checked a range of documents, including policies, procedures and assessments of children's progress.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the supervisor.
- The inspector had meetings with the supervisor and committee chairperson.

Inspector

Janet Dinsmore

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The safeguarding lead has received good training to help her ensure that all staff receive regular updates. All staff are aware of signs to look for. They know who to alert if there are any concerns. Staff work effectively with a range of agencies to support children's care and special educational needs and/or disabilities. The committee ensures that staff continually develop their teaching skills. Recent training for children's language development has ensured that staff can act quickly if they have any concerns. The committee and staff work highly effectively together. They fully inform parents about their children's progress. This strong partnership between the committee, staff and parents evaluates the quality of the setting effectively and identifies areas to improve.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are highly skilled at gently questioning children so that they develop their understanding and can explain their thoughts. Staff follow children's interests well and develop their play, for example, discussing the height and number of bricks in a tower. They continually change the resources available during the day, responding to children's requests and maintaining a stimulating and interesting range of activities. For example, after lunch, children become very involved in building and developing a marble run, explaining how the marbles move and experimenting with different designs. Each key person knows the children very well and is skilled at developing the next steps to learn.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are interested and enthusiastic learners. Staff ensure the youngest children are very secure and encouraged to explore. Staff enable older children to invent games for themselves, reflecting their interests and understanding of families, for example, when playing with the dolls' house or drawing with chalk outside. Children show concern for each other and eagerly share information about what they have been doing with their families. Children know how to use equipment safely, for example, knives when cutting up fruit for snack.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children are highly communicative and are confident to explain how they use tools to make shapes in play dough. Older children develop good physical skills, climbing on the tyres outdoors and riding trikes. Babies and the youngest children learn to crawl and walk, eagerly exploring different textures and shapes. They discover things for themselves and investigate how vehicles make tracks in foam. They communicate their choices of drink and snack using signs, which supports their language development effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY281171
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1091916
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	80
Name of registered person	Willow Nursery & Pre-School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP908389
Date of previous inspection	13 February 2015
Telephone number	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 these, one is qualified to level 7, one to level 6, one to level 5 and 8 to level 3.

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