

Elmwood Preschool

22 Guys Farm Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5NB



Inspection date

15 June 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager and staff are passionate about their work and strive to deliver the highest quality provision for children and their families. They effectively identify areas to develop further. They implement changes to achieve goals in improvement plans and to continue raising standards.
- Staff have developed very good two-way partnerships with parents. They provide parents with detailed information about their children's progress and guide them in extending learning at home. Parents speak highly of the friendly, welcoming and nurturing environment.
- Staff provide a wide range of opportunities for the children to experience a stimulating and engaging learning programme in the indoor and outdoor provision. Children make good progress and thrive in this welcoming and warm environment.
- Staff provide effective support for children who require additional support. They carefully monitor children's development and plan targeted activities to help them make very good progress.
- Staff give exceptionally high priority to children's well-being. Settling-in arrangements are flexible and individual to children's and parents' needs. Children are extremely confident and self-assured in the pre-school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes overlook opportunities to extend children's thinking skills to higher levels. On occasions, staff do not provide enough challenge to the most able children.
- The manager does not yet use information as well as possible to check the progress made by different groups of children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on providing greater levels of challenge that help children make even more rapid progress
- strengthen the existing monitoring systems to make comparisons of the progress made by different groups of children, in order to help all children progress to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager and completed joint observations with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school. She also looked at a selection of policies and self-evaluation records.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are suitably trained and have a thorough understanding of the pre-school's safeguarding policy. They are aware of the designated person within the pre-school and know who to make a referral to if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Staff are supported through supervision sessions and further training to develop their practice. Staff work together with other professionals to help reduce any gaps in children's learning. Very good links have been established with the host school and other providers, helping to ensure continuity of learning and care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, teaching is good. Staff know the children well and have a good knowledge of how children learn. They use their observations and assessments to plan effectively for children's next steps in learning. Staff get down to the children's level and join in their play experiences. Children are motivated, eager to learn and fully engaged, demonstrating high levels of perseverance and concentration. Staff introduce new vocabulary in context as they support children to play picture snap. They engage children in meaningful conversations and encourage them to share their home experiences. These are some of the many ways that staff effectively support children's communication and language skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children flourish in the exceptionally nurturing environment. Staff are extremely kind, affectionate and caring. Staff have a strong knowledge of the children in their care and go to considerable lengths to ensure their individual needs are well met. Behaviour is excellent because all staff are positive role models. Their calm approach ensures that children feel highly valued. Children's independence is extremely well promoted from an early age and they follow good hygiene routines. Children show great confidence as they explore the stimulating environment happily and with self-assurance. New children and parents are exceptionally well supported by staff to ensure a successful settling-in period that is tailored to the needs of each child and family. As a result of the exceptional care offered by staff, children learn to be independent, which supports and promotes their future learning and eventual move to school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy their time at the pre-school. Most children are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. Older children have the opportunity to participate in some carefully planned, structured small-group activities, such as recognising letters and the sounds that they represent and writing their name. This supports them to develop some of the key skills needed for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482970
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1000953
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	108
Name of registered person	Elmwood Pre-School Community Interest Company
Registered person unique reference number	RP902716
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01245 329529

Elmwood Preschool registered in 1983. The pre-school employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, 11 hold level 3 and four hold level 2. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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