

Blakesley Pre-School

The Village Hall, Blakesley Playing Field, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8RN



Inspection date

17 May 2018

Previous inspection date

20 October 2014

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 well-qualified and experienced staff team understands how children learn. They deploy themselves well to interact with children and effectively enhance their learning.
- Staff are kind, caring and friendly. They get to know the children well and promote their growing confidence and self-esteem extremely well.
- Children are enthusiastic and very capable learners. They demonstrate high levels of motivation and excitement in exploring the resources and initiating their own play.
- Children behave extremely well. They develop very good social skills as they cooperate, share and take turns in their play. Children make good progress in their learning and are very well prepared for when they make the move on to school and more formal learning.
- The manager receives good support from the chair of the committee to ensure the pre-school is well run. They work closely with the staff team and parents to identify areas for continued development and to promote good outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the staff do not give enough consideration to how children of different ages can be fully involved when taking part in planned activities together.
- Occasionally, children's next steps in learning are not identified precisely enough to help them make the best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support the variable learning and attention spans of children of different ages when they take part in planned activities together
- focus more precisely on identifying children's next steps in learning, to help them make the best possible progress.

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 completed two joint evaluations of activities with the manager and spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the chairperson for the committee. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working with children and those associated with the running of the pre-school.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents from documents provided for the inspection.

Inspector

Linda Newcombe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of how to protect and keep children safe. They have a good knowledge of the possible indicators of abuse and wider safeguarding matters. Rigorous recruitment and induction procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitable for their role and understand their responsibilities from the start. The manager provides staff with regular opportunities to have one-to-one meetings to discuss their ongoing development or share any concerns they may have. The chairperson for the committee is proactive in promoting and encouraging staff's continued professional development. Effective partnerships with other professionals have a positive impact on the good progress children make. For example, staff work very closely with teachers at the local school to support children's early literacy skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Children make particularly good progress in their speech and language skills. Staff build on opportunities to extend children's vocabulary. They sing songs and rhymes, and introduce children to descriptive words and phrases, such as 'the slithery snake'. Children listen carefully to instructions and learn to take turns in conversation. Staff promote children's dexterity well during activities. Children confidently handle a range of tools skilfully, such as scissors. For example, they enjoy cutting fresh herbs and discussing with one another about what they think the smells remind them of. Children use mathematical language confidently in their play, for example, they count and recognise number shapes and patterns.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thoroughly enjoy spending time at the pre-school. Staff establish strong bonds with the children and nurture their emotional well-being. Staff promote children's knowledge and understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children benefit from being physical active and enjoy spending time outdoors playing in the fresh air daily. Children manage their own self-care needs well. For example, they put on their own coats and shoes when playing outdoors and routinely wash their hands before eating. Staff keep parents well informed of their child's care and learning. Parents are encouraged to view and comment on their child's progress through their secure online learning journal. Staff provide regular reports on the children's progress and also share ideas to continue their child's learning at home.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the good skills they need for their next stage in learning. They demonstrate extremely positive attitudes and dispositions towards their play and learning. Children enjoy reading and listening to stories. They are curious and inquisitive learners who show an interest in solving problems. For example, they work together to work out how to transport water using a number of different-sized jugs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY428594
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1105294
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	20
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Blakesley Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909302
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2014
Telephone number	01327860100

Blakesley Playgroup registered in 2011. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm term time only. The pre-school provides early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are currently seven members of staff, of whom six hold appropriate early years qualifications at 3 and one at level 2. The manager holds a qualification at level 6.

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