

Willow Bank Pre-School

Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4RW



Inspection date

11 January 2016

Previous inspection date

25 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Staff provide children with interesting, creative and imaginative experiences based on children's learning needs and interests.
- Staff effectively use assessments to plan learning experiences that promote children's development. Children are learning the skills they need for their move to school.
- Staff effectively model language and focus sharply on helping children to acquire communication and language skills.
- Staff develop good partnerships with parents and other early years settings. They involve parents in their children's progress, providing consistency in learning.
- Children enjoy their time at the setting. They thrive on the affectionate, caring and warm relationships they develop with staff, which helps to promote children's emotional and physical well-being.
- Staff are proactive in maintaining good care and education for children. They use effective self-evaluation methods, such as parent questionnaires, to identify any areas for further improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend the use of mathematical language during everyday play, to enhance children's knowledge fully.
- On occasion, staff miss opportunities to increase children's awareness of safety, for example, when moving around and when using equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of all opportunities to challenge further children's use of mathematical language, particularly during their play
- increase opportunities for children to strengthen their awareness of how to keep safe in all environments.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main base room and garden.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager, and checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including children's learning records, planning, a selection of the setting's policies and children's records.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the deputy manager, and spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Since the last inspection, the manager and staff team have made positive changes to improve the quality of the setting and overall outcomes for children. For example, there is an effective key-person system and children with special educational needs receive increased support. Staff work closely with other professionals to ensure that all children make progress relative to their starting points, which shows their capacity to make continuous improvements. Leaders have a good knowledge of the requirements relating to their roles. For example, they support staff practice, such as through regular meetings and overseeing their performance. All staff benefit from regular training and professional development opportunities, which has had a positive impact on their teaching skills. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good awareness of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child, including how to report any allegations. Staff effectively deal with accidents or incidents, and keep accurate records.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a secure understanding of how children learn and develop. They provide a range of activities that reflect children's individual choices and children enjoy the freedom of exploring their environment. All children enjoy learning, such as during small-group times. For example, they eagerly listen to stories and enjoy how staff bring the story to life, such as through props and resources, helping children to focus and develop their listening and attention skills. Staff have implemented stronger and more positive planning, observation and assessment systems, which have led to improvements in the monitoring process and identifying any potential gaps in children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff offer children consistent praise and encouragement. For example, they commend children who are eager to help tidy up, which helps to build their confidence and self-esteem. Staff encourage children to share, to respect others and to be polite, such as to visitors, staff and other children. Children's behaviour is good and they play together cooperatively. For example, they select resources and make decisions about their play, which helps children to enjoy and achieve what they set out to do. Children develop a good awareness of the importance of having a healthy lifestyle. Staff teach children about the benefits of healthy eating. Children enjoy their play in the outside area where they can run around in the fresh air and enjoy energetic activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated and interested learners. They confidently explore the whole environment while following their own interests. Children are acquiring the necessary skills to support their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	148695
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	1008073
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	Willow Bank Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2015
Telephone number	01189 27 2338

Willow Bank Pre-School registered in 2001. The pre-school is open each weekday during school term time. Sessions run from 8.45am to 11.45am and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. A lunch club operates from 11.45am to 12.30pm. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. Of the eight staff who work with the children, seven hold relevant qualifications at level 2 and above, including one who holds Early Years Professional Status.

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