

Blackmore Community Preschool



Village Hall, Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore, INGATESTONE, Essex, CM4 0QW

Inspection date 12 May 2016
Previous inspection date 8 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 manager and her deputy set high expectations for children's learning and the quality of teaching. Staff are keen to help children achieve well. They share the leadership's ambition.
- Children make good progress. Staff identify and address gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. There are strong procedures to measure the achievement of all groups of children and to build well on their earlier learning.
- Children enjoy a good range of motivating and engaging experiences. Staff have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They help children to play and work well together and to share their ideas.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff are very positive role models for children to follow. Children are safe and well cared for. They develop strong bonds with staff and form good friendships with each other.
- Parents are well informed about their children's achievements and receive good guidance to support learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the overall quality of teaching is good, staff do not always continue to challenge children further once the aim of activities has been achieved. This means that on some occasions children are not given enough opportunity to achieve as much as they are capable of.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop teaching further so that it is highly responsive to children's evolving needs and what they are capable of achieving.

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 a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the deputy manager. He looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Andrew Clark

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The leadership gathers the views of parents, children and staff well to evaluate the pre-school's effectiveness and to plan for future improvement. Procedures for improving the quality of teaching and learning, including the use of observations of staff practice, are rigorous. Staff take good advantage of training opportunities to increase their knowledge of teaching strategies and the impact these have on children's achievement, including, for example, those with special educational needs or disability. The leadership analyses the progress made by different groups of children effectively and successfully reduce any differences in their rates of learning. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are well trained and have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and free from harm. They apply their knowledge well to create a secure and stimulating learning environment.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of accurate assessments of children's achievements to help them reach the next steps in their learning. Staff help children develop good skills for their future learning. For example, children learn to listen carefully to stories and join in the rhymes and actions well. The teaching of literacy and numeracy skills is good. For example, staff are consistent in taking opportunities for children to extend their knowledge of letters and the sounds they make. Staff help children to count and order objects. They provide good opportunities for children to develop their imaginative and creative skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to learn to make decisions and select their own and other resources. Children show imagination in their play and sustain their interest for long periods. Children are happy and content. They participate in creating their own games with simple rules to follow. Children's social skills are well developed. They work and play well together and are keen to share their toys. Children are polite and very well behaved. They respond very positively to the excellent example staff set. Staff promote children's knowledge and appreciation of healthy lifestyles. Children make a good contribution to tidying up at the end of the session, and helping to put equipment away indoors and outside.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all abilities, including those with special educational needs or disability, make good progress from their individual starting points. Children develop good speaking and listening skills. Older children learn to read simple words and phrases and form letters well as they practise their early writing skills. Children make good progress in developing their counting skills. For example, they count the number of wheels on their toy cars when they roll them down slopes. Children successfully create rhythmical patterns on musical instruments, such as drums and xylophones.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY417581
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	850071
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	Blackmore Community Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2011
Telephone number	07972 810218

Blackmore community Preschool was registered in 2005. The pre-school employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, one hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, seven at level 3 and one at level 5. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm all week and from 12.15pm until 3.15pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is lunch club each day between 12.15pm and 12.45pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs or disability.

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