

Lavenham Pre-School

Lavenham Primary School, Barn Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9RB



Inspection date	16 October 2015
Previous inspection date	11 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager and staff work closely as a team to ensure that they effectively implement all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Staff carefully track the progress made by each child enabling them to accurately identify any gaps in their learning or development. This means that where a concern is identified, swift action can be taken to begin minimising or, wherever possible, close the gap. As a result, children are supported to make excellent progress towards the early learning goals.
- The quality of teaching is excellent. The very experienced and knowledgeable staff plan a wide variety of exciting learning activities that very clearly include children's developing interests and ideas. This helps to boost the children's participation to the highest level, enabling them to acquire new skills in readiness for future moves on to school.
- The children's safety is central to all that the staff do. They very effectively support children's growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy, as they teach them how to manage daily tasks with care and attention.
- Staff take time to carefully plan a fun, child-centred environment. This supports the children to engage and enjoy a wide range of sensory-learning opportunities.
- Staff record very relevant observations of the children as they play and learn. These observations are used to identify what progress the children are making. Information is gathered extremely well through partnerships with parents and carers. This provides further information on which the staff can plan specifically to meet the evolving learning styles of each child.

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What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen creative learning opportunities to the optimum.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's development and progress.
- The inspector discussed a joint observation with the manager relating to the children's play and learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation. For example, evidence of the suitability checks for all members of the committee and staff. The inspector reviewed relevant training certificates, policies and procedures.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation processes undertaken by the committee, manager and staff.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

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Inspection findings**Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

Safeguarding procedures are extremely effective. The manager and all members of staff are exceptionally vigilant in protecting children from harm. They very clearly understand their responsibility in relation to dealing robustly with child protection concerns. The recruitment of staff is carried out methodically to ensure that only suitable adults work with children. The manager has realistic, but high expectations of her staff. Regular supervision meetings provide excellent opportunities to assess staff performance and identify areas for their continuing professional development. The staff team remain extremely competent and very well qualified because time is taken to update their existing knowledge and skills through training and workshops. Careful monitoring of all records, in relation to the pre-school, are undertaken by the manager and two deputy managers. Staff, parents and children are warmly invited to share their views and ideas, helping to ensure that any changes continue to meet their needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

As children talk and interact, staff very carefully listen and provide time for them to think and respond to questions. These interactive opportunities support children to develop excellent language and communication skills. They become confident and competent communicators. As children actively explore natural resources, such as sand, they learn that it alters when they add water, helping them to mould it in to various shapes. Children's understanding about the changing seasons of the year increases as they collect a rich variety of natural items, such as conkers, leaves and pine cones. They examine these using a magnifying glass then create their own pictures, which they proudly display. Children discover simple mathematical concepts as they share resources or count out their snack. These everyday activities enable them to begin learning about one more or one less and using number names in their play. Children enjoy excellent opportunities to use their imagination, however, there are even more possible ways to extend children's creativity in art, music and dance.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff act as very good role models and the children quickly learn about the importance of respecting each other's personal space and pre-school rules. Staff provide plenty of positive praise, this raises children's self-esteem, supporting their overall well-being. Staff provide nutritious snacks helping children to begin developing healthy eating routines. Children learn to move around safely avoiding objects and each other.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Staff attentively adapt activities to meet children's individual needs. This approach helps to support their continuous progress to a very high level. Children enjoy plenty of purposeful play, making excellent progress towards the early learning goals.

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Setting details

Unique reference number	251551
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	866544
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Lavenham Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2011
Telephone number	01787 247350

Lavenham Pre-School was registered in 1995. It operates from within the school premises. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.55am until 11.55am with an optional lunch club from 11.55am until 1pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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