

Widcombe Acorns Pre-School

St Marks Community Centre, St Marks Road, Widcombe, Bath, BA2 4PA



Inspection date

16 December 2015

Previous inspection date

25 September 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Staff are exceptionally good role models to children. They provide them with reminders about positive behaviour and effective strategies for them to use. Children learn to respect and value others, take turns and consider the feelings of others. They are well prepared socially for future life and the next stage in learning.
- Staff support children's personal, social and emotional skills exceptionally well. For example, they speak to children about their home lives to help them develop an excellent sense of their own identity and respect differences between themselves and others.
- Staff form excellent partnerships with parents. Parents are extremely well informed, support their children's learning at home and take an active role in the pre-school.
- The highly qualified and experienced provider is committed to providing children with excellent care and education. The provider uses self-evaluation extremely well to identify and maintain high-quality improvements. She supports staff to do high-quality training to maintain excellent knowledge and practice.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of how young children learn. They plan activities tailored to the individual needs of each child and support everyone to make very good progress from their starting points.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find even more inspiring ways to improve the already excellent teaching at storytimes to maintain children's attention and support their literacy and early reading skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the provider at appropriate times during the inspection and in a scheduled meeting.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching, inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at documentation including a sample of children's records, planning and assessment records, and the suitability of the committee and staff to work with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff, and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.

Inspector

Dominique Allotey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider is very effective in setting ambitious goals. The staff team are passionate and demonstrate a drive for constant improvement. Team morale is high. The manager reviews staff practice thoroughly. The leaders' checking of children's progress focuses sharply on identifying gaps as soon as they appear. This enables them to implement effective support quickly and close any gaps promptly. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have robust knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities, in particular child protection and safeguarding procedures, to protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff make activities extremely exciting and motivating for all children. They focus children's attention exceptionally well by using a range of teaching strategies. This includes singing, using signs and symbols, and being highly enthusiastic. This helps children to develop excellent concentration skills, think creatively and extend their language skills exceptionally well. This very high-quality teaching promotes children's love of stories and books, which is valuable for school. However, staff miss the occasionally opportunity to consistently capture every child's enthusiasm. Staff ensure children have plenty of time to explore their own thoughts and ideas. They extend these by challenging children to solve problems and think more deeply. Staff ensure children have extensive opportunities to be imaginative. This very high-quality teaching helps children's creativity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The well-qualified staff know children extremely well as individuals. They provide an excellent learning environment with a wide range of high-quality toys and equipment. Staff provide extremely sensitive support for children's emotional development. Children are very independent and confident to explore and experiment. Children form very caring bonds with their key person. They show respect and work well with friends. Children are very settled and extremely happy. Staff demonstrate a sharp focus on developing children's knowledge of their own safety. For example, children recognise stinging nettles and know that they are not safe to touch. Children benefit from an excellent range of highly-stimulating activities and opportunities to play outdoors, learn about nature and enjoy exercise and fresh air. Children develop excellent physical skills, which helps promote their health, confidence and self-esteem very well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make fast progress in their learning and development. They enjoy fantastic play and learning opportunities tailored to their needs. Staff use precise assessments to ensure they challenge every child and prepare them exceptionally well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133108
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	825549
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Widcombe Acorns Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 September 2009
Telephone number	01225 445446

Widcombe Acorns Pre-school registered in 1975 and operates in Bath. The pre-school is open each weekday from Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm during term time. There are nine members of staff, of whom two, including the manager, have a relevant degree level qualification and four hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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