

Lostwithiel Pre School Playgroup



Lostwithiel Pre School, Bodmin Hill, LOSTWITHIEL, Cornwall, PL22 0AJ

Inspection date 29 April 2015
Previous inspection date 11 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff provide an exciting and innovative programme of activities for children. They successfully involve children using highly effective teaching skills. Consequently, children are very eager and enthusiastic about learning.
- Children demonstrate an exemplary understanding of safety and behave exceptionally well. Staff place keen emphasis on the natural world and equality and diversity, to nurture children's very positive and caring attitudes towards others and the world they live in.
- Leadership and management are very strong with robust self-evaluation procedures. Rigorous staff supervision and further training ensure continuous professional development. Consequently, children benefit greatly from the high-quality provision.
- Staff work closely with parents, school staff and other professionals. Their positive partnerships ensure highly effective support to meet children's individual needs and development.
- The manager, staff and committee show enthusiasm and dedication in the continuing exemplary progress of their pre-school. The pre-school group has significantly evolved, particularly since moving to their current premises.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the outdoor activities to further involve children in writing and to enhance their understanding of measurement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff in a forest school session and during indoor activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, parents and committee members.
- The inspector read a sample of children's development records and checked specific documentation.
- The inspector discussed joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector checked safety of the premises.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff provide highly stimulating and well-equipped play areas for children. They show expertise in their organisation of activities, which have precise learning objectives. For example, children used compost and clay to make seed bombs, which they scattered to replenish flower stocks. Staff extended the activity by suggesting that the children made hand-prints, before they washed their hands. Staff engage children well in all activities, although on occasion they do not extend further the opportunities for children to write and use precise mathematical language when outdoors. To reflect their ethos on nature, staff enable continued learning indoors. For instance, children investigate natural resources and watch tadpoles grow. Staff know the children extremely well and maintain accurate summaries of their excellent progress. They have made effective improvement in their baseline assessment. This successfully addresses the recommendation from the previous inspection.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Extremely well-planned forest school sessions inspire children's interest and learning in a unique environment. Children show excitement and delight as they make their way with staff to the designated area. Staff skilfully ensure that children remember the safety rules. Children confidently recite the boundaries, such as to stay outside the log circle when the fire-pit is in use. They learn how to hold sticks safely and begin to learn the difference between edible and poisonous plants. Children play exceptionally well together and say that they 'work as a team'. They love physical play and shout with encouragement to their friends. For example, as they take turns to pull themselves up slopes using a sturdy rope. They eagerly explore and investigate, collecting worms, beetles and other insects. Children are proud of their findings and then carefully return them to the ground. High staff ratios ensure that children have close support and supervision at all times.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The management and staff team are exemplary in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff development is exceptionally effective with highly qualified staff being excellent role models. Improvements to practice include a systematic review and focus on children's language development. Sign language and visual aids are in greater use, with a successful impact on children's understanding and communication skills. Parents play an active part in the pre-school and have high regard for the provision. Staff act on their excellent ideas to take the group forward and further extend children's valuable play experiences. Staff and management have a very secure awareness and understanding of child protection issues and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422147
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	832766
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	Lostwithiel Pre School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2011
Telephone number	01208872243

Lostwithiel Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1969 and moved to premises at Lostwithiel Primary School in January 2011. It is operated by a management committee. The pre-school receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday, between 8.45am and 3.30pm, during term time only. The pre-school operates two forest school sessions each week. There are eight members of staff employed to work with the children, seven of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification. The manager and another member of staff have Qualified Teacher Status.

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