

The Orchard

Thame Road, Little Milton, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX44 7PZ



Inspection date	9 February 2015
Previous inspection date	21 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
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		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a stimulating learning environment that covers the seven areas of learning. Children make good use of all the well-planned space, indoors and outdoors.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff plan ambitious topics that capture children's interests. As a result, all children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff support children to learn the importance of personal hygiene. Children know to find tissues and blow their own noses. They understand the importance of washing their hands to clean away germs.
- The pre-school has good links with other professionals and groups. This ensures children with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive targeted support.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff rely on a limited range of techniques to support children's language. An over reliance on questions that require only single word answers does not fully encourage children to expand their vocabulary and to speak in full sentences.
- Children do not have an opportunity to serve themselves at snack times, which has an impact on their developing independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's language development more effectively, for example by using a variety of questioning techniques to support them to use sentences in their responses
- develop further children's independence during snack times by allowing them to choose and serve their food.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at free play and in group times, and staff interactions with them.
- The inspector sampled documents including policies, registers and records of children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and manager conducted a joint observation.

Inspector

Natasha Crellin

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan exciting and ambitious activities that reflect children's interests and stages of development. They have learned about famous artists such as Jackson Pollock, and reproduced his work with their own art. Children learn that print carries meaning as they read their own picture recipe card when they make play dough. Staff engage children in conversation and ask them questions, which supports their language development well, but, they do not always use questions which encourage children to answer in full sentences. The learning environment is exciting, and children can independently access toys. This allows them to have control over what they want to play with. Regular dance and movement sessions to music help children develop fitness, coordination and balance. Staff complete excellent assessments of children's progress. They quickly identify any gaps in their learning and address this with additional focus groups. They set clear and specific next steps for learning. These are shared with parents, allowing them to support children's learning at home. Children are very well prepared to move up to school. Older children have special group time and they learn phonics and number skills. Children also have several visits to the school, ensuring they are confident in the new environment.

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

Children have a good understanding of the routine and expectations. All children enthusiastically help put their toys away at tidy-up time. Staff praise children for making good choices and participating well. This helps them feel secure and their behaviour is excellent. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they help cut fruit for snack time. Adults closely supervise children and have conversations about how to use knives correctly. Nutritious snacks, such as fruit, milk and water, help children learn about healthy lifestyles. Children do not have opportunities to serve themselves at snack time, which limits their independence.

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

The manager and staff work as a coherent team. They create a welcoming and supportive environment and children feel valued. The manager understands her responsibility to support the learning and development requirements. She regularly reviews and reflects on children's progress and the overall effectiveness of the provision. This leads to targets being set for improvement. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding and know what to do if they had concerns about a child. All staff have been appropriately vetted to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The environment is kept safe through regular risk assessments and staff vigilance. Regular supervision and training ensures staff are consistent in their practice, and continually updating their skills and knowledge.

Setting details

Unique reference number	134995
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	841086
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	The Orchard Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 June 2010
Telephone number	01844 279989

The Orchard is a registered charity originally formed as a pre-school in 1987. It operates from a purpose-built log cabin with an enclosed garden. Children also have supervised access to the adjoining playing fields and park. The Orchard serves the village of Little Milton and the surrounding area. The pre-school is open five days per week during term times. Sessions are from 9am until 2.45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 9am until 12 noon on Thursdays. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The Orchard supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years of age. The pre-school employs five staff, four of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3.

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