

Alfresco Childcare and Forest Preschool

Bishopstone, Swindon, SN6 8PW



Inspection date	2 August 2017
Previous inspection date	6 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff have a calm, caring approach towards the children. They provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment. Children are confident and enjoy their time at the setting.
- The manager shows a strong commitment to identifying and targeting areas for development to continue to maintain good outcomes for children. For example, she has implemented a new system for ensuring children make good progress in their learning and monitoring different groups.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about diversity, such as when exploring resources that reflect different cultural backgrounds. Children learn to respect each other's differences and develop their understanding of different cultures and religions.
- Knowledgeable staff have a very good understanding of children's individual needs. They use observation and assessment opportunities to ensure children's next steps of learning are planned for accurately.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff work well with parents overall to support children's learning, they do not encourage parents to share information about their children's learning at home.
- Some planned activities do not take sufficient account of the youngest children's interests and abilities, to ensure they are fully engaged.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen arrangements for parents to provide information about what children know and can do at home, to help children make even better progress
- review further the organisation of some planned activities to fully engage younger children in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children in the nursery and in the outdoor pre-school.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She spoke with the staff team at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's learning records and the setting's safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by speaking with them during the inspection.

Inspector

Kelly Sunderland

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. They understand the procedures to follow should they be worried a child is being abused. The manager ensures that thorough risk assessments take place to protect children's safety and takes steps to minimise risks in all areas used by children. The provider's recruitment procedures are robust. The manager completes relevant checks to be certain that staff are, and continue to be, suitable. There are effective partnerships established with other professionals and this helps provide consistency in children's learning and development. Regular supervision of staff performance helps to identify any training needs to help increase staff's knowledge and skills, and enhance outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children work well together during play activities. Staff encourage children as they lead their play, to extend their learning. For example, children freely choose to paint and staff encourage them to squeeze the paint into pots. In the outdoor pre-school, older children work as a team to manoeuvre large tyres to make an obstacle course. Staff skilfully ask children questions that help them to think for themselves and solve problems. Staff use mathematical concepts well during activities and daily routines, to help children gain confidence with numbers, quantity, shape and measure. For example, they explore weighing scales and learn about weight.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive happily and show they feel secure. Staff encourage their good health well. They make sure that children eat healthy, home-cooked food and that they are physically active every day. Children's independence is developing well as they learn to manage their self-care needs and simple tasks, such as serving their own meals. Staff teach older children well to consider risks and use equipment safely. For example, children discuss with a staff member the risks that might arise during a planned activity.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. This includes those who speak English as an additional language. Any gaps in their development close quickly as staff identify and address their individual learning needs. Children are confident, keen learners who enjoy exploring the range of activities available to them. They develop good communication skills and interact well with others to share their thoughts and ideas. Children are developing the essential skills needed for their next stages in learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109117
Local authority	Swindon
Inspection number	1086631
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Alfresco Childcare and Forest Preschool
Registered person unique reference number	RP511122
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2014
Telephone number	01793 790263

Alfresco Childcare and Forest Preschool registered in 1996. The provider employs five members of childcare staff. All staff hold relevant qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager who holds a qualification at level 5. One member of staff has completed forest school training. The provision is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round; except for bank holidays and one week over the Christmas period.

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