

Headstart Pre-school Limited



Shevington Vale Cp School, Runshaw Avenue, Appley Bridge, WIGAN, Lancashire, WN6 9JP

Inspection date	11 June 2015
Previous inspection date	1 April 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

- The staff have an exemplary understanding of children's abilities. Children are making excellent progress from their starting points. Staff provide a vibrant range of activities which captivate children. Excellent communication with parents ensures they can build on these activities at home.
- Teaching is outstanding as staff expertly promote and extend children's learning at every opportunity. They encourage them to develop critical thinking skills and to become active learners who are inquisitive and very confident.
- Staff have excellent records of children's abilities and actively use these assessments as a basis for planning activities. Children's progress is carefully reviewed by staff and the manager.
- Children's personal, social and emotional needs are extremely well met. The friendly and community-based ethos of the pre-school ensures that children settle quickly and develop excellent relationships with their key person, other staff and each other.
- The management team and staff draw on their highly effective partnerships with the school and other professionals for advice and training opportunities in pursuit of continual improvement. This ensures they keep up to date on learning and development issues.
- Leadership is inspirational. Meticulous self-evaluation and reflective practice ensure that staff, parents and children are all highly involved in the setting's continual development in pursuit of excellence.
- Excellent safeguarding procedures are well known and implemented by staff, who place the utmost importance on ensuring children are extremely safe and secure at all times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide even more opportunities for staff to observe each other's teaching and provide feedback to each other on strengths and areas for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school with the manager.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager and a member of the local authority advisory team.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children and the procedures for self-evaluation.

Inspector

Emma Barrow

Inspection findings

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

Staff actively teach the children throughout the day. A key strength of the pre-school is the conversation between children and staff. Staff expertly promote children's confidence and curiosity. The way staff pose questions and the tone of their voices give the impression that children and adults are on a learning journey together. Staff extend children's language and vocabulary by repeating what a child has said and adding new words to the sentence. Children are provided with a very rich range of activities which promote their communication and literacy skills. They enjoy using rhythm and rhyme, and tap out patterns as they start to understand about rhyming words. Focused sessions, using letter sounds, extend their understanding. Children have many opportunities to make marks and move on to shapes and letters. Self-registration name cards provide children with regular opportunities to practise recognising their name, and they use the cards to copy from when writing their name. Staff use every opportunity to reinforce mathematical language. They actively plan activities which reinforce children's understanding of number, colour and language.

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

Children understand the rules of the group and are very kind to their friends. Routines are clear and promote successful learning. The children are able to concentrate and cooperate in groups. These are key skills they will need when they move into primary education. They are very independent and show immense pride when they undertake special roles, such as preparing snack. Children have a deep understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe and healthy. For example, children prepare their own fruit smoothies to develop their already excellent independence further.

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

The children benefit from a pre-school with a strong management team. The clear emphasis on regularly checking the quality of children's learning and staff teaching means that improvements are constantly implemented. Staff keep excellent records of children's learning and complete detailed summaries of their progress on a regular basis. Staff regularly check each other's written assessments to ensure they are a true reflection of children's abilities. The manager observes staff teaching and gives feedback on how they can improve. There is scope to extend these observations even further, to give all staff an opportunity to learn from observing each other's teaching. Parent partnership is excellent. Opportunities to become involved in children's learning are wide ranging. For example, children borrow book bags, and parents have prompt sheets to explain how they can get the best out of reading times. Staff are well qualified and have high levels of training, which are constantly extended. Specialist training, such as behaviour management, phonics and mathematics teaching, has a positive effect on staff ability to provide exemplary care and education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY340840
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	857213
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Headstart Pre-School Limited
Date of previous inspection	1 April 2011
Telephone number	07876 726 200

Headstart Pre-school Limited was registered in 2006. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm during term time only. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It employs 5 members of staff including the manager, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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