

Frome Valley Preschool

Frome Valley First School, School Drive, Crossways, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8WR



Inspection date	7 December 2016
Previous inspection date	6 February 2013

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

- The manager and staff provide an exciting, well-resourced environment that captures the children's interest, engages their curiosity and motivates them to learn. Children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their initial starting points.
- The manager gives the safety and well-being of children high priority. She ensures staff complete thorough risk assessments to maintain a safe and secure environment. All staff carry out their responsibilities to safeguard children diligently.
- Children are happy and confident. An effective key-person system ensures staff get to know their assigned children well. They are positive role models for children and support children successfully to develop respectful relationships with adults and other children. Children's behaviour is very good.
- The manager and staff work effectively with parents to share detailed information that enables them to continue children's learning at home and in the pre-school.
- Staff work well with the school to support children when they move on to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently challenge and extend children's thinking to develop their interest and curiosity even further.
- Staff miss opportunities to help children learn more about how to keep themselves and other's safe, including teaching them about safety when using the internet.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff more to consistently extend children's thinking and challenge them even further
- increase opportunities to help children develop a greater understanding about their own and other's safety, including when using technology and the internet

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as children's learning journals and planning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, and looked at policies and procedures, and evidence of staff qualifications and suitability.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Jacqueline Good

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager continually evaluates the effectiveness of the provision to improve the quality of children's experiences. She involves children, parents and staff to bring about changes. This has led to the provision of resources for parents to use at home to support children's learning. The manager checks individual and different groups of children's progress well to identify where they may require extra support to catch up in their development. The manager monitors staff effectively through regular supervisions and appraisals. She motivates them well to enhance their skills. For example, training has led staff to encourage children to use numbers more in everyday activities. The manager uses funding effectively, for instance, to support children who start at the pre-school with limited language to quickly progress. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a very good knowledge of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact skilfully with children and provide positive learning experiences. They help children to develop their language skills and engage in discussions. For example, they encourage children to talk in small and large groups, such as to discuss how to wrap presents in the 'elves' workshop'. Staff support children well to investigate, for example, when exploring a cornflour and water mix. Children enjoy practising their early writing skills and take part in craft activities using the wide selection of resources on offer. Staff regularly share assessment information with parents and encourage them to contribute to children's learning, identifying what children learn at home and need to learn next.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are quick to recognise and celebrate children's good behaviour. They encourage good manners and consistently teach children about taking turns, sharing resources and being kind to each other. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to provide targeted support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff teach children about wider society well. For example, they celebrate festivals such as Diwali and Christmas, helping children to learn respect and understand diversity.

Outcomes for children are good

Children who have starting points below those expected for their age quickly catch up. Children develop essential skills, such as independence. For example, they confidently pour their own drinks. Children develop a good imagination and enjoy being creative. They gain a good understanding of numbers, colours, shapes and sizes. Children's good progress prepares them well for their future learning, including the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY448858
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1062698
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	27
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Greenwood Tree Academy Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP909979
Date of previous inspection	6 February 2013
Telephone number	01305 852 643

Frome Valley Preschool registered in 2012. It operates from dedicated rooms within Frome Valley CE VA First School located in the rural village of Crossways, near Dorchester, Dorset. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday during school term times from 9am to 3pm. The pre-school employs a qualified manager, who holds an advanced diploma in childcare and education, and five members of staff who all hold a recognised level 3 childcare qualification.

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