

Magdalen Gates Preschool

Bull Close Road, NORWICH, Norfolk, NR3 1NG



Inspection date

6 November 2015

Previous inspection date

18 September 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Highly positive and trusting partnerships are established with parents. The management committee and staff are exceptionally committed and use a wide range of very effective methods to engage parents and other family members. For example, parents and families participate in stay-and-play sessions, library visits, mathematics groups and 'rainbow cafe' story and craft activities.
- The experienced and well-qualified staff have a superb knowledge of how children learn. Their support is highly effective in enabling children to make rapid progress in their learning and development, in readiness for the move on to school. Staff carefully organise the indoor and outdoor learning environment so that children enjoy free access to a very wide range of toys and resources.
- Staff implement a sharp focus on supporting children to acquire the skills they need for school. Children are extremely motivated to learn and develop exceptionally high levels of independence throughout all activities.
- The management committee demonstrate a strong commitment towards maintaining excellence in all areas. Reflective practice is excellent, clearly taking into account the views of staff, parents and children. The pre-school continues to evolve with an emphasis on what will make a positive difference to children and their families.
- Staff are highly skilled in providing a warm and caring environment that supports each child and their family. Children form strong attachments to their key person, other staff and each other. Children settle exceptionally well and show high levels of confidence and self-esteem.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already successful monitoring of the progress of different groups of children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and chairperson. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation, records of children's learning and development and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector looked at staff qualifications and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Karen Harris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The knowledgeable management committee and staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities in implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of their role and responsibilities in protecting children in their care. Excellent attention to professional development through regular staff supervisions has a positive impact on children. Staff highlight specific training needs, in order to continually improve the outcomes for children. The management committee have recently introduced a new system to monitor the progress of different groups of children. They have agreed that they have not yet evaluated the new system to see if it identifies areas for reflection.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are sensitive to each child's individual needs. They make meaningful contributions to support and extend children's learning superbly. Staff skilfully ask effective questions and use every opportunity to challenge children to make excellent progress. They give them time to process questions before answering so that children can solve problems for themselves. Children show increasing levels of understanding about their behaviour and the effect their actions have on others. For example, during whole-group activities, children eagerly grade themselves with a 'thumbs up, middle or down' to see if they have followed the pre-school rules. Children listen animatedly to staff as they enthusiastically read a story. They confidently join in with familiar actions and phrases to popular rhymes. The children display enjoyment in their learning as a result of staff's wonderful and highly skilled interactions and complete involvement.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff demonstrate an expert understanding that children's sense of security underpins their future learning. They place great emphasis on supporting children's early personal, social and emotional development. Children settle quickly into the pre-school. They rapidly become familiar with the daily routines and quickly get to know their key-person groups. Staff are excellent role models, encouraging children to be polite, to use good manners, and learn care and consideration for others. Children enjoy social snack times. Staff have very high expectations of all children and support them to take responsibility in the pre-school. For example, during each session three children become helpers. They work with staff to prepare snacks and then wash all the equipment up when snack time has finished. This helps to develop children's confidence and self-motivation.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Staff complete regular observations, which provide them with a comprehensive knowledge of each child. Assessments are sharp, focused and precise. Highly effective monitoring of the progress of all children means that staff swiftly identify areas where children need more support. Staff work exceedingly well with parents to ensure there is a consistent approach to meet children's individual needs. All children make excellent progress, given their starting points and capabilities, including those who speak English as an additional language.

Setting details

Unique reference number	254166
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	866841
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Magdalen Gates Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 September 2008
Telephone number	01603 665783

Magdalen Gates Preschool was registered in 1992. It operates from two rooms within Magdalen Gates Primary School. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with Early Years Professional status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.30am until 11.30am and 12.15pm until 3.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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