



03/02/2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you will know, on the 12<sup>th</sup> January we received an inspection from Ofsted. The result of this inspection has now been published. Unfortunately, the preschool has been given a classification of “requires improvement”.

The reasons that Ofsted gave in their report are as follows:

- At times, staff do not notice when children need engagement to challenge their learning, especially when their key person is not available. Children's progress is not consistently good.
- Staff keep children safe but do not help them to recognise potential hazards for themselves and learn how to manage them well.
- Staff miss opportunities to challenge older children in understanding numbers when they have one more or one less item.

The report also contained many positive observations about strengths of the preschool which we were glad to see, including:

- The provider ensures regular opportunities for staff's personal development. For example, staff have improved support for children who are learning English as an additional language. The manager is developing the use of observations to feedback to staff on the quality of teaching to improve outcomes for children.
- The staff team works closely in partnership with parents and outside agencies to support children who have special educational needs. Staff have strong partnerships with other early years providers to ensure they work together consistently to meet children's needs.
- Children learn to manage their feelings, behave well and think of others. For example, they suggest that playing together and sharing is a 'nice thing to do'.
- Staff seek important information on children's starting points, make regular assessments of their development and plan for children's next stages of learning.

Some further observations from the inspector about the children at preschool were:

- Staff provide appropriate support for children's key areas of development
- Staff extend children's vocabulary and encourage their physical skills
- Children arrive happy and settle quickly to the activities
- Children develop important practices to keep themselves healthy

We are very disappointed with this outcome, and have already begun putting measures in place to rectify these observations. This is an important opportunity to review and improve our practices, and we are confident that this will allow us to achieve a more positive grading at re-inspection, which will happen within a year. We are engaging all the help and support available to us, and working closely with Wiltshire council to ensure we are providing a high standard of care for our children.

However, we understand that this outcome will raise concerns and we would like to invite you to come and discuss these openly with us. Therefore, we plan to hold two sessions on Friday 10th February in the hope that one of these will be convenient for anyone who would like to meet with us. Becci and the Chairs will be available both after pick up at 3pm at preschool, or in the evening at 7:30 at The Bull, Downton. We will be happy to discuss any aspect – the inspection, verbal feedback, the report and what we have put in place to improve. **Please let us know if you plan to come along, and to which session.** If you would like to come and talk to us but are not able to make either of these times, please get in touch and we will arrange a meeting.

We would like to thank parents for their comments to the inspector, which we understand were positive. We are fortunate to have had the support of the local community throughout the history of the preschool, and we hope that support will continue during this challenging time.

A full copy of the report is available here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY262169>

Thank you

Jen Brewin and Emma Curl

Chairs, Downton Community Preschool