

The Little Normans Pre-School



Northwold Pre-School, Fendick Field, School Lane, THETFORD, Norfolk, IP26 5NB

Inspection date 19 January 2015
Previous inspection date 28 May 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Robust procedures are not in place to safeguard children as suitability checks for all elected committee members are not sought or obtained in a timely manner. Ofsted has not been notified of changes of all committee members. This results in the safety of children being compromised.
- The pre-school room is not always adequately heated to ensure children's comfort and to enable them to fully concentrate and engage in learning.
- On occasions, the group times are not effectively planned and organised to fully engage all children's interests.

It has the following strengths

- The new management team knows what action is needed to improve the provision. Although in post for only a short while, they have begun to take steps to address weaknesses in the quality of what is offered to children.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure they are well informed about and supported with their children's learning and well-being.
- The outdoor area is effectively planned and exceptionally well-resourced, consequently, children who prefer to learn outdoors make good progress in all aspects of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure that Disclosure and Barring service checks are obtained for all elected committee members in a timely manner
- ensure the pre-school room is adequately heated at all times, to enable children to feel comfortable and so be able to engage more fully in their play and learning.

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

- ensure all group times are effectively planned and organised, especially with regard to having all resources needed easily accessible.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that the registered person informs Ofsted of the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of any partner, director, senior officer or other member of the governing body (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about this provider.
- The inspector observed activities in the inside and outside play areas and spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision and of the committee members, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school leader and had a phone conversation with the elected committee chairperson.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The quality of teaching is good in most respects because all staff have an adequate knowledge and understanding of the areas of learning. The staff join in children's play and encourage and challenge them as they learn. For example, the creative area is popular with the children and there are many opportunities for them to paint, stick and create models. Staff praise and encourage them well as they tell them how lovely their pictures are. However, the pre-school room is cold and this affects some children's ability to concentrate. Consequently, they remove themselves from the good play opportunities to find warmth under blankets. The staff plan appropriate small group activities, such as music times. However, on occasions staff do not plan these times well as they do not have all the resources they need available to them. Consequently, some children lose interest and become restless. This could result in some children not acquiring the skills they need to be ready for school. Observations and assessments are carried out regularly and staff have an accurate understanding of what children can do and how to plan for the next steps in their learning.

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

Children's safety and well-being are not adequately protected. This is because the pre-school committee do not adequately understand all their responsibilities. Children have friendly and caring relationships with each other and the pre-school staff. Staff promote children's physical development adequately as children have many opportunities to learn outdoors. Children learn appropriate hygiene practices through the daily routine. They know what food helps them to stay healthy because staff discuss this with them during snack times. All staff are good role models. They talk to children about what is right and wrong and praise positive behaviour, which boosts children's self-esteem. However, on occasions staff do not always respond to children complaining that the floor is cold and asking for their slippers. This results in children feeling uncomfortable, as they lie on the sofa to stay warm, and this adversely affects their good health and well-being.

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

Children are not fully safeguarded because the provider has not ensured that Ofsted is notified of changes to the committee members within the required timescale. Furthermore, the provider has not ensured that the required Disclosure and Barring service checks are carried out. This results in the full suitability of the committee not being assessed to ensure they are suitable to manage the pre-school and places children at risk of harm. The new leader of the pre-school is pro-active in ensuring all policies and procedures are reviewed in order to adequately protect children's safety in the day-to-day running of the pre-school. The monitoring of the range of activities and the quality of teaching is generally robust and so practice across the nursery is mainly consistent. Partnerships with parents are good and parents speak highly of the pre-school. Staff have effective and regular supervisions and attend regular training. They continue to develop

their knowledge and understanding through undertaking appropriate early years qualifications and training. This demonstrates the staff's commitment to further improve their practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	257938
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	1002259
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	The Little Normans Northwold Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	28 May 2010
Telephone number	01366 728804

The Little Normans Pre-School was registered in 1976 and is managed by a voluntary committee. It is situated in the grounds of The Norman Church of England Primary School in Northwold, Norfolk. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school opens each weekday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 12noon on Monday and Friday, and 9am until 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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