

Holton St Peter Pre-school

Holton & Blyford Village Hall, Lodge Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8PL



Inspection date

2 February 2015

Previous inspection date

1 February 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Satisfactory	4 3
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

- The committee and management do not have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They have failed to inform Ofsted of changes to the hours childcare is provided. They do not hold appropriate documentation of all the staff employed, such as their home address and contact details.
- Children are not safeguarded because there are no clear systems in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The management has not ensured every member of staff has undertaken a suitability check, and has not kept a record of every member of staff's criminal records disclosure reference number, the date the disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it.
- The lead practitioner for safeguarding has not attended the appropriate training in order to offer staff support, advice and guidance on specific safeguarding issues.
- Staff do not facilitate a regular, two-way flow of information with parents or between providers, where children attend more than one setting.
- The committee has not implemented effective inductions to ensure the management team have a clear understanding of the setting procedures. Arrangements for supervision are not rigorous enough to assess staff's performance and create a culture of mutual support.

It has the following strengths

- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities make suitable progress because the setting has developed effective communications with other professionals to support their development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure an accurate record is maintained of the details of all staff working on the premises, including the name, home address and telephone number of each staff member
- ensure every member of staff who works directly with children is suitable to do so, by obtaining an enhanced criminal records disclosure
- implement effective systems for safer staff recruitment that include an accurate record of the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed, the Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure reference number, the date it was obtained and details of who obtained it
- ensure induction training is effective in helping the management team to understand their roles and responsibilities
- enable a regular, two-way flow of information with parents, and between providers, where children attend more than one setting
- implement appropriate arrangements for the supervision of staff, so that their professional development needs are identified and met through ongoing support and training, and the quality of teaching and learning is improved
- ensure that the lead practitioner for safeguarding has the necessary training and skills to provide support, advice and guidance to staff regarding child protection and safeguarding issues, as required.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the manager of the provision.
- 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, staff files and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.

Inspector

Kerr Cobbett

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a range of activities to promote children's learning and development. Children have free access to a wide range of toys and resources as they develop independence. The children enjoy exploring the 'slime' in the messy tray, describing how it feels. Staff help the children to develop their early reading skills in the story corner, ready for when they make the eventual move to school. Monitoring and tracking of children's progress are inconsistent. Some staff make regular observations of children's play and use these to plan appropriate activities to extend children's learning, particularly for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. However, not all children are so well supported. Children who attend other early years settings are not supported well enough with their transitions between the providers. This hinders their personal, social and emotional development as they are unsettled in their play. Staff do not always respond to spontaneous learning opportunities. Staff do not always respond to children's requests to join in with play. Some of the staff fail build on children's critical thinking skills as they have not recognised the learning potential in such activity. As a result, not all children are being supported to make good progress.

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

Children and parents are given a false sense of security as a result of weak leadership and management. The committee has failed to ensure that everybody who works with the children is suitable to do so. Staff are not supported to follow safeguarding procedures rigorously because the safeguarding lead practitioner has not updated her training in order to provide support, advice and guidance to other staff members. Staff have not been effectively supported with supervisions in order to improve their teaching and promote the interests of every child. Children have friendly and caring relationships with each other and adults. Staff promote children's physical development adequately. Children learn appropriate hygiene practices through the daily routine. They are provided with healthy snack options. However, during these routines children's independence is not always promoted effectively as staff pour drinks for every child rather than encouraging those who could manage this task independently, to serve themselves. This does not support their physical skills effectively.

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

Leadership and management are ineffective. The management team has a lack of understanding regarding its roles and legal responsibilities. The management has failed to carry out appropriate checks on all staff and has not kept a record of the vetting procedures undertaken. There is not an accurate record of the details of staff working on the premises. The monitoring of the quality of teaching is not robust. Therefore, practice across the setting is inconsistent. The new manager has identified the need for robust supervisions to be implemented, to support staff with their practice and to promote the interests of children. Staff regularly working in partnership with other professionals to

support children's specific learning and development needs, where necessary. The staff have not developed a similar two-way flow of information with other providers involved in the children's care and education. This means there is a lack of continuity and consistency in children's care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251520
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	818400
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	Holton St Peter Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2010
Telephone number	07979746476

Holton St Peter Pre-school opened in 1973 and is managed by a voluntary committee. It operates sessions from 9am until 12pm and 12pm until 3pm, each weekday during term time. The pre-school provides a lunch club for children from 11.45am until 12.30pm. The committee employs four part-time staff members to work with the children and each hold an appropriate early years qualification to at least level 2. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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