

ABC Pre-School

St. Peter's Church, Goresbrook Road, DAGENHAM, ESSEX, RM9 6UU



Inspection date	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	19 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider has not ensured that some areas of the pre-school are regularly and thoroughly cleaned. This has the potential to compromise children's well-being.
- Staff do not present some activities well enough, to encourage children to explore and develop their creative skills.
- Books are stored on high racks and this means that children cannot reach the books that they want to look at. Therefore, staff do not take all opportunities to develop children's early reading skills.
- Staff do not consistently ask effective questions. This means they do not always encourage children to reply with answers that require more than one or two words. Therefore, they do not fully promote their communication skills.

It has the following strengths

- Staff teach children a sound range of skills which help them to prepare for school.
- The manager conducts regular staff supervisions, to identify and address staff training and development needs.
- Managers work well with other professionals to review and develop practice and to plan effectively for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that the premises are regularly and thoroughly cleaned, in order to fully promote children's good health and well-being
- provide more challenging and appealing activities that encourage children to explore and use their imaginations, in order to promote their creative skills.

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

- develop the use of effective questioning, to encourage children to think and talk about their play
- review the storage of books, so that all children can easily make choices from the range available, to promote their early reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector observed children in all areas of the pre-school as they played and took part in adult-led activities.
- The inspector spoke with parents, children, staff and managers at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's development folders, staff records and policies.

Inspector

Lesley Hodges

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy activities that cover all areas of learning. However, some activities do not encourage children's interests and exploration. For example, staff provide dough in small amounts, but the resources to use with the dough are not easily available. This reduces opportunities for children to develop their creative skills. Furthermore, children cannot reach some of the displayed books to strengthen their early interest in books. Staff monitor children's development with regular observations and assessments. They plan well for children and use sound teaching methods which help children make steady progress in their learning. Staff share progress reports with parents and regular meetings enable parents to share their own observations. Staff prepare older children well for school with interesting activities that develop their mathematical and literacy skills. They name resources in the role-play area so that children can learn new words. However, staff do not consistently ask effective questions to encourage children to think and talk as they play.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

The provision for children's well-being requires improvement due to weaknesses in leadership concerning hygiene arrangements. Staff provide healthy snacks and teach children about the benefits of drinking milk. Children choose physical play in the fresh air for long periods during each session. These opportunities promote their health and well-being. Staff gently remind children about safe practices in all areas which helps them to take responsibility for their own safety. Staff greet children warmly when they arrive and, as a result, children feel secure in the setting. Staff support new children by giving them one-to-one attention when they need it and comforting them when they are upset.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager understands how to provide a secure environment. Although some areas of the premises are not hygienically clean and pose a risk to children's well-being, the manager has already reviewed the situation. She explained plans for a deep clean of all areas and to improve supervision of children in the meantime. This reduces the risk to children's good health. Induction processes and regular staff training ensure that staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding procedures. Recruitment processes are robust and the manager obtains Disclosure and Barring Service checks for all staff. The manager spends time in each area of the pre-school so that she can review the types of activities offered to children and how children use the resources. She tracks the progress of different groups of children and has changed the layout of the pre-school. This has encouraged children to use the different areas and improved opportunities for learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	509798
Local authority	Barking & Dagenham
Inspection number	836926
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	83
Name of provider	Annette Twomey
Date of previous inspection	19 October 2009
Telephone number	020 8984 8999

ABC Pre-School registered in 1993. It operates from church premises within St Peter's Church in Dagenham, within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The pre-school is open five days a week during school term time. Sessions operate from 9.15am to 11.45am and 12.15pm to 2.45pm. There are nine members of staff, six of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3 and one of whom holds a qualification at level 2. The manager holds a qualification at level 4. One member of staff is unqualified. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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