

St Chads Pre-School

St. Chads C of E Primary School, Gladstone Street, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 4AT



Inspection date

12 March 2015

Previous inspection date

9 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Good	4 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
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 provider has not notified Ofsted of any changes to the individuals who are directors of the company providing the childcare.
- There are weaknesses in the safeguarding procedures, consequently, children are not always fully protected at all times.
- Children's hours of attendance are not always recorded promptly at the start of the session.

It has the following strengths

- Exciting exploratory outdoor experiences provide children with a sense of adventure and the opportunity to experience challenge and manage risks for themselves. For example, children climb trees and play in the den made from hay bales and camouflage netting. They dig in the mud and persevere as they attempt to ride the scooter through it.
- Teaching is good as there is an effective, structured approach to assessing children's development that can be applied to the whole group, key groups or individual children. Consequently, children's stage of development is easily determined and regularly shared with parents. As a result, teaching is tailored to ensure all children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff build effective relationships with children by giving them verbal reassurance, smiles, praise and by playing alongside them as they try out something new. This helps children to form secure emotional attachments and promotes their sense of security and belonging.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure the directors of the pre-school have regard to the government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013', ensuring they understand what they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard children
- ensure all staff understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, are able to identify possible signs of abuse or neglect, and can seek advice or make a referral if needed, as early as possible, to safeguard children
- maintain a daily record of each child's hours of attendance to ensure the safe and efficient management of the pre-school and to make sure the needs of all children are met.

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

- inform 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)
- train all staff on the written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- keep a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance and retain them for a period of two years (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- keep a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance and retain them for a period of two years (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspection was prioritised following Ofsted's risk assessment process because of a concern that was raised.
- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and in the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager of the provision and one of the directors of the company.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Linda Yates

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The manager's foundation degree in early years has given her a thorough understanding of how children learn and develop. As a result, she provides an environment which encourages children to develop curiosity and the ability to explore. For example, children enjoy playing in the mud kitchen outside. This offers them unique tactile and sensory experiences that are vital to developing a child's critical thinking. As children run mud through their fingers, scoop mud from containers and create mud pies, they develop their hand and eye coordination and learn about cause and effect. Children participate in a painting activity outside, they use paint brushes to make marks and so develop confidence and dexterity through this process. This supports both their physical and creative skills. Staff provide good opportunities to talk to children about the sounds the letters in their name make. For example, children glue rectangle train carriages on to paper and write the letters of their name on each carriage. The key person weaves in mathematics as she models counting the carriages and the letters in each child's name. Children who speak English as an additional language are effectively supported. The pre-school works closely with parents and staff learn familiar words in the children's home language to help them settle. Consequently, staff support children very well so that they develop the skills they need in readiness for starting school.

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

Children's safety is compromised as some staff do not fully understand or follow the safeguarding policy and procedures. Additionally, the provider has not notified Ofsted of any changes to the individuals who are directors of the company so that their suitability can be checked. Furthermore, staff do not always complete the daily registers promptly to provide an accurate record of who is on the premises. As a result, children may not be safely evacuated in an emergency. Staff sit and chat with the children at mealtimes and gently encourage them to make healthy choices, such as eating their sandwiches before their dessert. There are effective strategies for managing children's behaviour which include positive reinforcement, in order to promote their self-esteem. Children have direct access to outdoor play and can move freely between the inside and outside throughout the day, encouraging children to be physically active.

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

The provider does not fully understand their responsibilities in ensuring that all the safeguarding and welfare requirements are met. Although there is an effective safeguarding policy in place and staff have undertaken safeguarding training, the provider has not ensured that all staff fully understand their role in safeguarding children. As a result, the provider has failed to notify local children's social care of concerns about a child's welfare in a timely manner. Staff receive adequate supervision and have regular, confidential discussions about any concerns, their training needs and children's progress. They reflect on practice and monitor the educational programmes effectively to promote

children's good progress. There are positive relationships with parents and strong links with other professionals, including those who support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the school. This means there is a shared approach to children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315135
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	1007865
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	52
Name of provider	St Chads Community Enterprises
Date of previous inspection	9 September 2010
Telephone number	01606 593345 07857802509

St Chads Pre-School was registered in 2005. It operates from a portable building in the grounds of St Chad's Church of England Primary School, Winsford. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications, two at level 5, two at level 3 and one at level 2. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, during term time only and sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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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