

# The Avenue Pre-School Playgroup

The Avenue Methodist Church, Rutland Avenue, HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire,  
HP12 3JQ



## Inspection date

16 April 2015

Previous inspection date

16 March 2010

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 <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

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

- Teaching is not strong enough as some staff lack the skills to extend children's learning during activities and child-initiated play. Arrangements to supervise staff and promote ongoing professional development are not effective in improving the quality of teaching.
- Although planning on paper is clear, staff do not sufficiently prepare activities to ensure that children get the most out of their learning experiences. Staff do not use resources well to engage children or extend their learning.
- Staff do not sufficiently help children to learn about healthy eating and the effect this has on their bodies.

### It has the following strengths

- The setting has strong links with parents and other partners who work with them to support children further.
- The environment includes a range of resources that reflects the children's home backgrounds and celebrates their differences.
- Staff are friendly and welcoming to children, they show affection and create an environment where children want to come and play.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the planning of activities to ensure all children are challenged, and take time to reflect on activities to identify if anything can be changed to improve outcomes further
- develop further the mentoring and coaching of staff and identify training to ensure teaching is consistently good during both adult-led and child-initiated activities.

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

- make better use of resources to engage children in challenging, interesting play that promotes their all round development
- develop children's awareness of healthy lifestyles by providing activities that encourage children's awareness of healthy eating.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and learning in the inside and outside learning environments.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including development records, key policies and procedures, and those related to the suitability, supervision, support and skills of staff.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through discussions and feedback forms.
- The inspector took account of the provider's self-evaluation.

## Inspector

Carolyn Hasler

## Inspection findings

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

In general, staff provide a range of interesting activities for children and support them relatively well as they play and learn. However, there are inconsistencies in teaching practice and some staff are more confident than others in moving children forward. Overall, staff encourage children to 'have a go', which builds on their confidence and self-esteem. Their ongoing conversations with children sometimes extend children's thinking. This helps most children make progress in their communication and language skills. Children have opportunities to play outside every day to let off steam. The setting provides 'movement to music sessions', helping children build their balance and coordination.

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

The key-person system works relatively well to enable children to settle and build trusting relationships with new adults in their setting. Staff model how to play with others and enable children to build skills in managing strong feelings and behaviours. This helps to reinforce positive messages of how to make friends. Staff encourage safe play. They plan this element of the environment well to enable children to take risks as they learn new skills. Children become increasingly independent as they manage tasks for themselves. Overall, children have healthy choices but are not learning why these choices are important to their lives. Staff ensure that children are emotionally ready to manage change as they prepare to move between different settings and on to school.

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

The manager is able to reflect on the quality of learning and development and shows an awareness of the weaknesses in practice. She has made significant improvements on systems to help staff manage their roles and responsibilities. Observations and assessments are working and the tracking system shows how well children are achieving. The manager has recently introduced monitoring and mentoring to help develop skills and abilities. However, this is not currently impacting on the quality of teaching practice. The staff team is secure in its knowledge of safeguarding issues. Staff are able to respond appropriately to concerns identified in order to ensure the safety of children. Recruitment procedures are strong, ensuring all those working with children have thorough suitability checks.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY333723
<b>Local authority</b>	Buckinghamshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	828229
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	29
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	45
<b>Name of provider</b>	The Avenue Pre-School Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	16 March 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	07944 197666

The Avenue Pre-School registered in 2006. It operates from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, and from Monday to Thursday between 12.30pm to 4.15pm, during school term time. The pre-school employs seven staff, of whom six hold relevant early years qualifications between level 2 and level 6. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education to children aged two, three and four.

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