

Precious Times

Lacey Acres Primary School, Swiftsure Crescent, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire,
DN34 5QN



Inspection date	4 June 2015
Previous inspection date	3 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They provide a broad range of well-planned learning experiences, which cover all seven areas of learning. As a result, children are motivated, eager to learn and make good progress.
- Staff are committed and enthusiastic in their approach to caring for children. Consequently, all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language, develop a strong sense of belonging.
- Children develop independence in their play as they freely access a wide range of stimulating resources, both indoors and out. The environment supports children well to follow their interests and develop their own thoughts and ideas.
- Leadership is good, the manager and owner have a good understanding of how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage. There is clear motivation to continually develop the pre-school, in order to improve opportunities for children's learning.
- Partnerships with parents are based on open communication. Parents spoken to during the inspection are aware of their child's progress and feel that their input is sought and welcomed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not thought enough about how they engage children in group activities, so that all children get the most from these experiences.
- Opportunities for children to gain a greater awareness of the wider world are not always fully explored.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the activities offered at group times to ensure all children fully benefit from the learning experiences offered
- strengthen the opportunities for children to gain a greater understanding of the world, for example, by providing activities that help them to learn about other cultures and festivals.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school and held discussions with the owner and manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed free-play activities taking place in the playroom and outside area.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, and the pre-school's self-evaluation and improvement plan.

Inspector

Hayley Ruane

Inspection findings

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

All children are supported to make good progress in their learning and development. Staff provide children with activities that encourage them to be independent learners. As a result, older children obtain the skills they require for school. Children are able to explore and play for a good amount of uninterrupted time, where they can develop their own ideas. This results in children being very focused and engaged as they thoroughly enjoy what they are doing. Overall, teaching is good, although some group sessions are not as well organised. Some children become distracted and do not join in. Therefore, some children do not benefit from the learning opportunities on offer. Children receive visits from the local fire department to learn about their community. However, there are fewer activities provided to help children to learn about other cultures and festivals. Children investigate nature in the garden. They use magnifying boxes to look at spiders more closely. Staff ask children to count the legs on a spider, therefore, developing children's number skills.

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

Children clearly show through positive relationships that they are comfortable with staff. They are confident to ask for the items they need, and initiating conversations with staff. Staff are good role models, and teach children how to stay safe. Children are reminded to wear sun hats when playing outside. Larger play equipment is provided for children of all ages in the outside area so they can develop physical skills. Children reach for apparatus, and staff provide support for younger children, whilst allowing older children to be independent. Staff are well deployed to provide continuous supervision of children, which contributes to their overall safety and welfare. Children have ample opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Staff use snack times to encourage children to be independent, and children serve themselves nutritious food and drinks. Staff give children praise for their efforts, which promotes their self-esteem. This helps prepare children emotionally for future learning.

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

Recruitment and vetting procedures for staff are thorough. Staff are well qualified and continue to increase their knowledge through training. This is identified at regular performance management meetings, and has a positive impact on children's learning and development. The manager monitors the quality of teaching and children's learning well. This ensures children make ongoing progress, and they all receive good quality care and learning. All staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection. They know the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child's welfare. Children are well prepared for the move on to school as they are supported through good partnership working with local schools.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY275188
Local authority	North East Lincolnshire
Inspection number	860897
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	125
Name of provider	Precious Times Childcare Services Ltd
Date of previous inspection	3 March 2010
Telephone number	01472872143

Precious Times was registered in 2003. It employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, eight at level 3, one at level 5, including one with Early Years Professional status. Precious Times opens Monday to Friday all year round. During term time, sessions are from 8.50am until 3.20pm. The breakfast club sessions are from 7.45am until 8.50am and the afterschool club from 3.20pm until 6pm. A holiday club runs during the school holidays from 7.30am until 6pm. 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.

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