

Cygnets Pre-School

The Well, Nest Farm Crescent, Hemmingwell, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 4TQ



Inspection date

12 October 2015

Previous inspection date

4 November 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff understand that young children become familiar with their environment through relating and communicating with others and engaging physically in their experiences. As a result, children achieve their potential and make good progress.
- Children's personal, social and emotional well-being is given high priority. This is enhanced by a well-established key-person system which supports children to form secure attachments. As a result, children seek reassurance as required and demonstrate that they are happy and feel emotionally safe and secure.
- Management and staff maintain a safe environment for children and closely supervise them at all times. They understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection concerns which support children's welfare.
- Staff establish good partnerships with parents and other professionals. This effectively supports progression and continuity in the children's care and development. Comments received from parents are positive and complimentary regarding the care and learning provided.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully support children's developing understanding of how to name and sound letters of the alphabet.
- Staff do not always fully promote outdoor learning and play experiences for children who prefer to learn outside.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the range of teaching strategies to focus on older children's literacy development
- strengthen staff involvement in outdoor learning and expand the good range of play experiences provided in the outdoor environment to further support those children who prefer to learn outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and spoke by telephone with the nominated representative of the Hope Project. The inspector also looked at relevant documentation, discussed self-evaluation and viewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ann Austen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have worked hard to meet the actions raised at the last inspection. They have received support and continually strive to ensure children are kept safe, feel emotionally secure and make progress in their learning and development. Management effectively uses self-evaluation, including obtaining the views of parents to identify future priorities. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment and induction procedures are secure. All staff members have completed Disclosure and Barring Service checks and hold suitable qualifications. Their ongoing professional development is encouraged and the small staff team readily shares practice and ideas. This enhances their performance and results in children being cared for by staff who are effective in their role.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff successfully build on the children's interests as they play. They skilfully incorporate mathematical concepts, such as big and small and encourage children to count and sort objects according to their colour and size. Staff effectively support children's developing language skills. They readily chat to children, read stories and encourage them to join in familiar rhymes. They skilfully introduce new vocabulary, such as bang, bang, prickly and hibernation as children play. Children enjoy making marks as they chalk, draw and paint. Older, more-able children are beginning to write their name, forming recognisable letters. However, occasionally their understanding of the alphabet is not fully supported. Children enjoy accessing the outdoor area. They chase bubbles, manoeuvre wheeled toys and eagerly climb on and crawl under the climbing frame. However, the use of other areas within the outdoor space are not yet used to fully support those children who prefer to play outside. Occasionally, some members of staff demonstrate less enthusiasm for supporting children's learning outside.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff offer home visits and actively seek a good range of information from parents about each child's needs, cultural background and stage of development. This ensures children's care and learning needs are met. Staff successfully broaden children's range of experiences. Children take part in community events, such as the local carnival, and learn to respect and celebrate each other's differences. They are actively encouraged to develop self-discipline, to respect the feelings of others, to share, be polite and use good manners. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. A variety of well-balanced snacks are provided and there are daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They are developing the skills and capacity to learn in preparation for the next stage in their learning, such as school. From a young age, children are encouraged to develop their independence and sense of responsibility. They help to tidy away and learn to manage their self-care needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350208
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	997595
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	The New Life Church, The Hope Project Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2014
Telephone number	07846310018

Cygnets Pre-School was registered in 2003. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 4. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term times only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 11.30pm and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school supports children who speak English as an additional language and disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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