

# Holcombe Brook Methodist Pre-School Playgroup



Holcombe Brook Methodist Church, Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom, Bury,  
Lancashire, BL0 9QZ

<b>Inspection date</b>	22 October 2015
Previous inspection date	17 February 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Parents are extremely supportive of the playgroup. They talk positively about the care and support the staff provide for their children. Information to support children's progress and well-being is shared effectively between parents and staff.
- The quality of teaching is strong. The manager and staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of how children learn. They use this knowledge effectively to teach and engage children in learning.
- Children's independence is well supported. Staff provide a welcoming and well-resourced environment where children make choices in their play.
- The manager is committed to reviewing the practice of the playgroup and evaluating the service that is provided. The manager has identified priorities to make sure that the playgroup continues to improve.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager is not monitoring the information gathered about children's achievements to promptly identify any emerging gaps in children's learning. She is not monitoring the overall progress of different groups of children.
- The manager does not effectively model her strong practice to staff to help them learn from her expertise.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- analyse the assessment information gathered about children's learning, and the learning of different groups of children to identify and address any emerging gaps and ensure that children are making the best possible progress
- strengthen the arrangements to share the expertise of leaders to offer the best possible support and mentoring for staff.

### 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 playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including the playgroup's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

### Inspector

Emma Allison

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager leads the staff team well. She identifies staff's professional development needs through appraisal systems and staff meetings. This supports staff to regularly update their knowledge and has a positive impact on practice. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager implements robust systems for the recruitment of staff so she is confident about their suitability. The manager has high expectations for staff and children. She is proactive in gathering the views of parents, children and staff to reflect on the quality of the provision and to drive improvement forward. The manager has successfully addressed the recommendation from the previous inspection.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan activities that follow children's interests and support the next steps in their learning. Children have lots of opportunities to develop their mathematical skills. For example, they match puzzle pieces together and count out how many pieces they might need. Staff support children to recognise numbers and introduce positional language during play. Songs and rhymes feature strongly in the playgroup, which help to promote children's language development. Children make different sounds with the musical instruments while joining in at song time. Staff provide good opportunities for children to become independent learners. Children take pride in registering themselves on arrival.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff understand children's needs very well. There is an effective key-person system in place. Children are well settled and receive good guidance to help them understand the rules of the playgroup. Staff are clear about expectations and remind children of the importance of sharing and being kind to their friends. Staff are good role models for children. They offer regular praise and encouragement and sensitively join in with children's play. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem. Children receive good support to help them learn how to keep themselves safe. Staff arrange trips to the local fire station and visits from the community police to help to develop children's understanding of emergency procedures. Children are also involved in evacuation drills. Children have nutritious snacks and learn about healthy eating. The playgroup has recently received a gold award in recognition for their promotion of healthy lifestyles. Staff encourage children's physical development through offering a wide range of outdoor play opportunities. Staff support children to follow good hygiene practices and tend to their personal needs. Children proudly show everyone their clean hands after emerging from the bathroom.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. Staff support children's early literacy skills particularly well. Older children give meaning to their marks and begin to form letters in their name. Children are confident and independent learners, and are well prepared for their eventual move to school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	316833
<b>Local authority</b>	Bury
<b>Inspection number</b>	865107
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	30
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	23
<b>Name of provider</b>	Holcombe Brook Methodist Pre-School Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 February 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	07940 157 452

Holcombe Brook Methodist Pre-School Playgroup was registered in 1992. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold early years qualifications at level 5 and four have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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