

Noah's Ark Nursery Group

Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road, BURES, Suffolk, CO8 5BX



Inspection date	5 November 2015
Previous inspection date	26 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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

- The management team has a secure understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and runs the pre-school very effectively. This has a positive impact on the children and families who attend.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff observe children's learning and plan meaningful activities, taking into account their interests and stages of development. This promotes children's learning effectively and helps ensure that they make good progress.
- Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their early literacy skills. They consider many ways to engage children in mark-making activities, such as using whiteboards and making marks in mud and sand. This helps to equip children with key skills needed for their future learning.
- Staff create a warm, welcoming environment for all children and their families. Parents speak highly of the provision and value the friendly, caring staff team.
- Children are well protected because staff have a good understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children. Well-organised daily routines help children learn how to keep themselves safe.
- The committee and management team regularly reflect on the quality of the provision. They identify strengths and areas to develop to further improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- New systems for monitoring staff's performance are not yet fully embedded to ensure high-quality supervision.
- Information collected on entry to the setting does not always take account of what children can already do.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the performance management systems further to ensure the quality of teaching is monitored and information is used to strengthen staff's skills and provide supervision of the highest quality
- enhance the depth of information collected from parents on entry to the setting to establish what children can already do when they start.

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 meetings with the pre-school manager and the nominated person. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and 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

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have attended relevant training and have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child. Rigorous vetting and induction procedures ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. There are very good arrangements in place for monitoring children's attendance. The highly experienced manager provides strong leadership for the committed and enthusiastic staff team. Most staff hold a relevant childcare qualification. They have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. However, opportunities for ongoing staff supervision and professional development have not been maximised to raise the quality of teaching even further. Staff build close relationships with parents and information is exchanged daily to develop a shared approach to children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children and their families are warmly welcomed into this friendly pre-school. There are good settling-in procedures, and the key-person system works well to make sure children feel safe and secure. Staff gather information about children's care needs and interests when children first start. This helps children to be emotionally secure. However, the information staff obtain from parents on entry is not detailed enough to help staff precisely plan children's learning from the start. Staff use many opportunities to support and extend children's developing language and communication skills during activities and daily routines. Independence skills are promoted well and children enjoy taking on responsibilities, such as helping to set the table at snack time. Trips to the church and to feed the ducks help to extend children's knowledge of the wider world. Children are excited when the fire officer comes to visit to talk about fire safety in preparation for bonfire night.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

All staff work well together and are good role models for children. They encourage children to be polite, sociable, considerate and respectful of each other. Children show good levels of independence and are comfortable within their surroundings. This gives them a strong sense of belonging and promotes their emotional well-being. Children are developing a growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy. They learn about a healthy lifestyle through the provision of healthy snacks and plenty of fresh air and exercise. Staff encourage children to think about how to behave safely, such as not running inside.

Outcomes for children are good

Effective systems for observation and assessment enable staff to track children's progress and identify any gaps in the learning of different groups of children. Therefore, all children are making good progress and are developing the skills needed for the next stage in their learning, including school. Staff have made links with other professionals and settings that children attend and this contributes to continuity in children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251429
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	866518
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	Noah's Ark Nursery Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 January 2010
Telephone number	01787 227899

Noah's Ark Nursery Group was registered in 1971. It operates from the Bures Community Centre and is open from Monday to Friday, during school term time. It is open from 9am until 3pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am until 1pm on Fridays. The group employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The group receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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