

Sandymoor Pre-School

Sandymoor Hall Community Centre, Otterburn Street, RUNCORN, Cheshire, WA7 1XU



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

25 February 2016

26 February 2015

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

- The manager and her team demonstrate a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of the pre-school. Instrumental progress has been made since the last inspection and they have worked hard to put improvements in place, which benefit children.
- Staff are well qualified and have a thorough knowledge of how young children learn. Teaching across the pre-school is good.
- Staff know children well and plan fun, engaging activities which children thoroughly enjoy. Children are motivated and engaged and make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff have formed strong partnerships with parents and keep them well informed about the progress their child is making. Parents are asked to make contributions towards children's learning records and are involved in their assessments.
- Management and staff have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision and are committed to driving further improvement. The views of staff, parents and children are sought and acted upon to enhance the quality of the pre-school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children's understanding of technology is not fully promoted.
- Children's understanding of different cultures and the world beyond their local community is not fully promoted.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to explore and learn about technology
- enhance the range of opportunities available to support children's understanding of the wider world.

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 provider. 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

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and her team have a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to report their concerns. Robust recruitment, vetting and monitoring procedures help to ensure staff's suitability for their roles. Staff are well supported in their professional development. They have regular opportunities to develop their existing knowledge, in order to further enhance their practice. Staff access support from a network of professionals, including local authority advisers. This has helped highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the pre-school and enhanced the quality of the provision. The manager and her staff team effectively monitor children's progress, in order to quickly identify and implement extra support where needed. Staff use very effective observation, assessment and planning systems to help children achieve their next steps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual learning needs and provide a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. Staff help children to learn in many different ways and use effective teaching strategies to engage children in their learning. They have good interactions with children and encourage them to question, explore ideas, test their theories and have fun. Children gain confidence and are motivated to learn. Their mathematical understanding is developing well. Older children count confidently and begin to recognise numbers that are important to them. Children find their name labels as they arrive and use a variety of media to practise their early writing skills. Children develop their creative skills well through the many activities provided. For example, they enjoy making musical instruments and painting pictures, exploring texture, colour and sound.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emerging understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle that involves physical exercise and a healthy diet. Children play outside regularly and the outdoor area helps to promote children's developing physical skills and confidence. At snack time, staff support children to feed themselves and make their selection from the snacks offered. This is one of the many ways that staff promote children's emerging independence skills. Children respond very well to the golden rules and boundaries in place. Children behave extremely well. They learn to respect each other and to share and take turns and are supported by staff who are very good role models. An extremely well-established key-person system and effective deployment of staff help children to form strong, secure emotional attachments.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress towards the early learning goals. Staff provide the challenge and support children need to succeed. Children's early writing, reading and mathematical skills are developing well, in order to support their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY273777
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	1037384
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Moore Pre-School Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 February 2015
Telephone number	01928 597710

Sandymoor Pre-School was registered in 2003. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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